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Dozens of Tinian employees paid only 56 hours. PAGE 2
High Court sanctions San Nicolas, Brasington. PAGE 3

US Senate panel OKs immigration bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A U.S. Senate panel passed yesterday (Tuesday Washington, D.C. time) a sweeping national immigration reform bill that retained a provision allowing long-term, legal foreign workers in the CNMI to apply for improved status.

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Details of Senate immigration bill

A look at the 867-page immigration overhaul bill approved Tuesday by the Senate Judiciary Committee:

BORDER SECURITY

■ The bill sets goals of surveillance of 100 percent of the border with Mexico, and catching or turning back 90 percent of would-be crossers.

■ Within six months of enactment of the bill, the Homeland Security Department must develop a border security plan to achieve those goals, including the use of drones, additional agents and other approaches; and develop a plan to identify where more fencing is needed.

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POINT BREAK
A tourist tries out a point break flow rider or bodysurfing wave machine at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio on Saturday. With CNMI tourism arrivals picking up, hotels and other related businesses have been sprucing up their facilities and beefing up their promotions especially in May, which is dubbed CNMI Tourism Month.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FEAR and WORRY STALK NMI RETIREES

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

For at least two years now, 72-year-old retiree Donna Cruz has found herself often depressed, thinking of how she will sustain herself if the pension checks that she depends on stop coming.

Cruz never imagined that, at this stage in her life, after many years of faithful government service, she would be faced with constant worry and depression and that she would have to gird up for action again to fight for what was promised her and countless other retirees.

"I have found myself often depressed just thinking of my future, or lack of a future. I have feared and still fear how I will be able to support myself, pay rent, buy food, pay utilities, pay for gas, pay for car repairs, etc.," she said.

Cruz, of Chalan Piao, also fears for her health if she is forced to give up her health insurance.

"I fear now for my health deterioration if my health insurance is gone. For certain, I will avoid seeing a doctor for even the most basic of preventative care. I could become a further burden on the

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With 10 months to go before its projected collapse, do you think the NMI Retirement Fund can still be saved?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Teachers are credited with saving the lives of students in Oklahoma.
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ENVIRONMENT

Beach litter mars US—and world's—coastlines.
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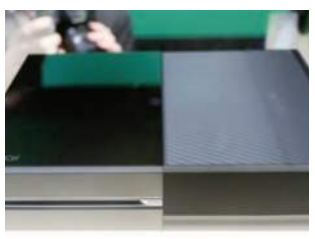
LIFE & STYLE



Microsoft thinks it has the one, the Xbox One.
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Local

Dozens of Tinian employees paid only 56 hours

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Dozens of Tinian employees received their payroll on time last week but covered only 56 of the regular 80 work hours biweekly because of the lack of funds expected from casino revenues, officials said yesterday.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said yesterday that the legislative delegation's immediate passage of his House Local Bill 18-16 would give a total of $29,039 to the Tinian Mayor's Office for the payroll of municipal employees.

That bill, which he initially planned to withdraw after the same employees got paid days after their May 3 payroll, is up for Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation action to address the full May 17 payroll.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, in a separate interview yesterday, confirmed that municipal employees have yet to get their full paycheck.

"56 hours is what we can afford at this time. There's still financial struggle. We haven't been getting enough money required for payroll," the mayor told *Saipan Tribune.*

Dozens of municipal employees rely on casino revenues from the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for their payroll.

Conner's HLB 18-16 appropriates $22,000 from Tinian Local Law 14-2 and re-appropriate $14,039 from TLL 18-1 and 18-2.

Of the total amount, $29,039 will go to the Tinian mayor's office for municipal employees' payroll account.

The remaining $3,000 will be used by the Tinian San Jose Fiesta Committee to repay vendors, and $4,000 for the Tinian Little League Association.

Conner and Dela Cruz also separately said that Tinian Dynasty's negotiations with Taiwan-based Howarm Golden Islands Holdings Ltd. for Dynasty's purchase have taken longer than expected.

"I'm hoping it's going to go through," the mayor added.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, the only one of its kind in the CNMI, is the biggest private sector employer on Tinian.

DANCING DESPITE THE RAIN
Members of the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination perform Ryukyu cultural dances in Week 2 of the 15th Annual Taste of Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden last May 11 at the American Memorial Park. Despite the heavy rains, the six cultural dancers gamely performed for the appreciative crowd, which included Gov. Eloy S. Inos.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Bill makes drunk, disorderly conduct a 'payable' offense

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee chair Christopher Leon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) introduced Tuesday a bill making the offense of drunk and disorderly conduct payable by a minimum of $100 fine and 30 hours of community service.

Leon Guerrero, a former police officer, said House Bill 18-76 does not significantly change the law, but clarifies that a person need not disturb the peace of any other person to be guilty of violating the law against drunk and disorderly conduct.

"This new offense will be a non-criminal infraction, akin to a traffic payable offense requiring no formal arrest and clearly no detention for first offenses," he said.

Under the bill, any person who is found to be drunk or disorderly in public will be fined $100 and sentenced to 30 hours, for first offense.

As a second or more offense, any person found to be drunk or disorderly in public "may be subject to formal arrest and detention and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than three months, and a fine between $200 and $300, and sentenced to a range of 60 to 80 hours of community service at the discretion of the court."

HB 18-76 says the current law regarding drunk and disorderly conduct in public is "too vague."

A police officer may need to wait for a complaint from a citizen before issuing a citation or making an arrest for disturbing the peace, Leon Guerrero said.

He said the current law provides a large gap between what is publicly unacceptable drunk and disorderly conduct that should be cited and stopped without a victim or complaint being issued on the one hand, and disturbing the peace on the other. The bill seeks to bridge this large gap.

At present, the offense of disturbing the peace is punishable by six months imprisonment or less.

Still, this is not clearly a payable offense despite the fact that in most cases it should be, Leon Guerrero said.

Leon Guerrero also introduced HB 18-75, establishing a privilege from compelled testimony for members of the news media.

Inos extends CUC, CHC emergency declarations anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended for another 30 days both the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s state of emergency declarations on April 30 and May 20, respectively. The governor also signed on Tuesday a local bill appropriating $60,000 in poker license fees for Rota patients, scholars, and other programs and services.

The governor, however, is poised to revive a CUC board of directors and is preparing to submit board member nominees to the Senate.

Once the CUC board is revived, the only other major concern is coming up with legislation to allow CUC to continue to hire skilled technical foreign workers in the absence of qualified U.S. citizen workers

With both CUC and CHC still under a state of emergency, the governor can reprogram funds and suspend procurement laws or rules to address the emergencies.

Rota law

Meanwhile, the governor signed on Tuesday Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Local Bill 18-12, Draft 1 into Rota Local Law 18-2.

Santos' bill appropriates $60,000 in poker license fees for at least six Rota programs and services.

Of the total amount, $43,050 is for certain Rota patients' subsistence allowance while receiving treatment on Saipan; $6,000 for Rota employees' retroactive salary payment under Public Law 7-31; $6,000 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Fund; $500 for the youth basketball court renovation; $500 for the fly trap program; and $3,950 for the Rota Little League.

The governor, in his transmittal message, said while he approves the measure, he does so "with reservations" with respect to the $6,000 appropriation for Rota employees' retroactive salary payment pursuant to PL 7-31.

"The Legislature fails to identify which employees are to be paid as the amount appropriated is insufficient to compensate the complete list of employees awaiting retroactive payments. As such, the secretary of Finance may hold the payments in abeyance until there are sufficient monies for all employees," Inos said.

Alleged sex trafficking victim testifies about ordeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of three alleged victims of a sex trafficking case testified yesterday in federal court how she was allegedly forced to have sex with a man whom she described as "very rough and brutal."

"I felt I could not stay with him in a minute," said the woman through an interpreter during the ongoing jury trial of karaoke club operator Chang Ru Meng Backman.

On assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy's examination, the woman, a Chinese national, said she could not do anything because her boss (Backman) told her to stay the whole night with the customer.

The woman is the U.S. government's first witness against Backman, who is on trial for three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion.

The alleged victim said she was dropped at a house and when she went inside, the customer was already naked. She said the man wanted unprotected sex but she refused.

She said the man had sex with her three to four times that night and described him as "very brutal."

"It's not normal," the alleged victim said.

She said the customer called her boss the next day to pick her up and that the customer gave a check to Backman on "the second morning."

The alleged victim said it was the only time she encountered that man.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday late afternoon, defense counsel Victorino Torres was cross-examining the woman. Attorney Joaquin Torres is assisting Victorino Torres as counsel for Backman.

U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco and assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton assisted Badawy for the U.S. government in the trial. It is the first time that Limtiaco participated directly in a trial in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The jury selection was held Monday and the actual trial began on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sanctioned Backman to pay $200 for the untimely filing of her proposed jury instructions. Joaquin Torres, however, asked the court to instead impose the sanction upon them as counsel.

According to the indictment, Backman operated the Holiday Night Club, a karaoke bar on the second floor of a building in Chalan Kanoa. The bar allegedly provided sexual services for an added fee.

Backman allegedly received money from customers of the club for sexual services performed by women at her direction. Sex acts performed by the women generally took place in rooms where the women lived in a barracks near the club. On occasion, the defendant allegedly transported the women to and from the club to various locations for customers to engage in sex.

Three Chinese women traveled to the CNMI in August 2008 allegedly based upon promises of jobs at a hotel or a farm on Saipan.

Judge OKs settlement in medical malpractice suit

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has approved a settlement agreement in a medical malpractice lawsuit filed by a man who lost the sight of his right eye after an accident from bush cutting in 2010.

In an order issued Tuesday, Manglona said the agreement and the settlement are in the best interest of plaintiff Thomas M. Deleon Guerrero and that the settlement amount is reasonable.

The judge said the court retains jurisdiction of the case to enforce the agreement.

Yesterday, Deleon Guerrero and defendants StayWell Guam Inc. and Staywell Saipan Inc. filed an agreement to dismiss all claims that have been brought or that could have been brought against StayWell.

The parties agreed to bear his or its own attorneys' fees and costs.

The parties' lawyers disclosed in court papers that the payment of $48,000 to Deleon Guerrero is a good settlement as is guarantees a substantial sum from StayWell.

Deleon Guerrero was clearing brush on March 17, 2010, when he slipped, lost his balance, and struck a tree initially with his right eye.

According to court papers, Guerrero was a covered dependent under a Certificate of Group Health Plan Coverage with StayWell held by the plaintiff's wife, Oliva. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

San Nicolas, AAG accept sanction

On May 22, 2013, the CNMI Supreme Court issued its opinion and judgment sanctioning Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas and assistant attorney general Charles Edmond Brasington $500 for misrepresenting that there was inadequate time to file for a stay in the Superior Court in their emergency motion to stay filed in the Supreme Court. The high court's order, *Commonwealth v. Lot No. 218-5 R/W, 218-6 r/W*, 2013 MP 5, is available on the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission's website, http://www.cnmilaw.org, under the Judiciary Branch tab.

As stated in their response to the high court's order to show cause, San Nicolas and Brasington fully and unconditionally accept the court's sanction. San Nicolas has determined that he and Brasinton shall each pay half of the $500 sanction. Furthermore, Brasington has notified the Iowa Judicial Branch's Office of Professional Regulation of the sanction and provided copies of the Supreme Court filings to allow that office to determine what reciprocal discipline is appropriate. Information on the Iowa Judicial Branch's Office of Professional Regulation can be found online at http://www.iowacourts.gov/Professional_Regulation/.

The Office of the Attorney General takes its solemn obligation to the Commonwealth taxpayers and the Commonwealth Judicial Branch very seriously. San Nicolas expects and demands the highest degree of professional and personal integrity from assistant attorneys general, both in and out of the courtroom. Furthermore, San Nicolas expects assistant attorneys general to willingly and humbly accept responsibility for their professional errors. The Office of the Attorney General believes that these expectations were met in this case, as Brasington was forthright and frank in his acceptance of responsibility and willingness to accept whatever sanction the high court found just.

In order to avoid similar misrepresentations in the future, the Office of the Attorney General has instituted a mandatory peer review policy requiring that any and all proposed court documents be reviewed for legal substance, factual accuracy, grammar, and compliance with the applicable rules of court before filing. ***(Office of the Attorney Genera)***

High court sanctions San Nicolas and Brasington

The Supreme Court sanctioned Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and Assistant Attorney General Charles E. Brasington on Tuesday for misrepresentation and fined them $500.

The misrepresentation was the result of an emergency motion San Nicolas and Brasington filed with the Supreme Court asking it to stop the effect of a Superior Court order until the Supreme Court decided the case on appeal (known as a "stay"). In their emergency motion, San Nicolas and Brasington declared that they had not already filed a motion with the Superior Court asking it to stay its decision while the parties pursued an appeal. In fact, however, not only had San Nicolas and Brasington filed a motion with the Superior Court, but the Superior Court had granted that motion before the two had even filed their emergency motion with the Supreme Court.

San Nicolas

The Supreme Court found the misrepresentation significant for several reasons. First, the misrepresentation was about an important factor in evaluating an emergency motion, whether the Superior Court had already denied the party's request. Second, the attorney general has a heightened duty to be honest when filing an emergency motion because its emergency nature prevents the Supreme Court from hearing opposing counsel's counterarguments and doing extensive independent research. And, third, because the Superior Court had already stayed the case, there was neither an emergency, nor cause to suggest, as the attorney general did, that the Superior Court's order would cause the Commonwealth extreme financial hardship if the Supreme Court did not immediately grant their motion.

The high court ultimately sanctioned San Nicolas and Brasington $500.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Commonwealth v. Lot No. 218-5 R/W*, 2013 MP 5, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme13.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

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2 other men in sexual abuse of a minor case plead guilty

Two other men who had sex with a 14-year-old girl who later became pregnant pleaded guilty yesterday and were each sentenced.

Donald C. Arriola, 24, and Glenn Lester Enriquez, 26, pleaded guilty to a count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree as part of a plea deal with the Office of the Attorney General.

» 3 defendants ordered to undergo paternity test to determine father of girl's child

Citing mitigating factors, including lack of criminal history and their young age, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced the two to eight years in prison, all suspended except for two years for Arriola and 18 months for Enriquez.

Wiseman noted that the girl has relations with the defendants and a plea deal would avoid subjecting her and her family to the stress and trauma of a trial.

After completing their sentences, Arriola and Enriquez will be placed on six years' probation. They were ordered to pay a $200 fine, $100 in court costs, and $600 in probation fees.

They were also required to perform 100 hours of community service and register as sex offenders.

Upon the birth of the girl's child, Arriola and Enriquez will be required to submit to a paternity test through either the Department of Corrections or the Office of Adult Probation. Cost of the testing will be the defendants' responsibility, he said.

Wiseman said that whoever is determined as the child's father will be responsible for the girl's medical costs associated with labor and delivery.

According to court records, Arriola had sex with the 14-year-old girl twice in August 2012 on Tinian. That same month, Enriquez also had sex with the girl.

Last February, 32-year-old Leon Joaquin Sanchez pleaded guilty to the same offense involving the same girl and was slapped with a three-year prison term.

Sanchez was also required, among other things, to submit to a paternity test.

A police detective said the girl confessed to a Division of Youth Services officer that she had sex with two men in the latter part of August 2012 and that one of them was Arriola.

The girl confessed that Sanchez made her pregnant and that they're been having sex since late July 2012.

Sanchez had stated that he loves the girl, intends to marry her, and support her and the child. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DETAILS

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■ If the goals of 90 percent effectiveness rate and continuous surveillance on the border are not met within five years, a Southern Border Security Commission would be established with border-state governors and others to determine how to achieve them.

■ Before anyone in the U.S. illegally can get a new provisional legal status, the border security and border fencing plans must be in place. Before they can get permanent resident green cards, the plans must be substantially completed, and a new entry-exit system must also be implemented at U.S. seaports and airports to track people coming and going. And a mandatory system must be in place for employers to check workers' legal status.

■ About 3,500 new Customs agents would be funded nationally.

■ The National Guard would be deployed to the border to build fencing and checkpoints, among other tasks.

■ Funding would be provided to increase border-crossing prosecutions and to create more border patrol stations and forward operating bases.

PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

■ The estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. illegally could obtain "registered provisional immigrant status" six months after enactment of the bill as long as:

(1) The Homeland Security Department has developed border security and fencing plans.

(2) They arrived in the U.S. prior to Dec. 31, 2011, and maintained continuous physical presence since then.

(3) They do not have a felony conviction or three or more misdemeanors.

(4) They pay a $500 fine.

■ People in provisional legal status could work and travel in the U.S. but would not be eligible for federal benefits.

■ The provisional legal status lasts six years and is renewable for another $500.

■ People deported for noncriminal reasons can apply to re-enter in provisional status if they have a spouse or child who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, or if they had been brought to the U.S. as a child.

■ After 10 years in provisional status, immigrants can seek a green card granting lawful permanent resident status if they are current on their taxes and pay a $1,000 fine, have maintained continuous physical presence in the U.S., meet work requirements and learn English. Also the border triggers must have been met, and all people waiting to immigrate through the legal system as of the date of enactment of the legislation must have been dealt with.

■ People brought to the country as youths would be able to get green cards in five years, and citizenship immediately thereafter.

HIGH-SKILLED WORKERS

■ The cap on the H-1B visa program for high-skilled workers would be immediately raised from 65,000 a year to 110,000 a year, with 25,000 more set aside for people with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering or math from a U.S. school. The cap could go as high as 180,000 a year depending on demand.

■ New protections would crack down on companies that use H-1B visas to train workers in the U.S. only to ship them back overseas.

■ Immigrants with certain extraordinary abilities, such as professors and researchers, multinational executives and athletes, would be exempted from green-card limits.

■ A startup visa would be made available to foreign entrepreneurs seeking to come to the U.S. to start a company.

■ A new merit visa, capped at 250,000 a year, would award points to prospective immigrants based on their education, employment, length of residence in the U.S. and other considerations. Those with the most points would earn the visas.

■ The bill would eliminate the government's Diversity Visa Lottery Program, which randomly awards 55,000 visas to immigrants from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States, so that more visas can be awarded for employment and merit ties.

LOW-SKILLED WORKERS

■ A new W visa would allow up to 200,000 low-skilled workers a year into the country for jobs in construction, long-term care, hospitality and other industries.

■ A new agriculture worker visa program would be established to replace the existing program. Agriculture workers already here illegally, who've worked in the industry at least two years, could qualify in another five years for green cards if they stay in the industry.

FAMILY IMMIGRATION

■ Under current law U.S. citizens can sponsor spouses, children and siblings to come to the U.S., with limits on some categories. The bill would bar citizens from sponsoring their siblings and would allow them to sponsor married sons and daughters only if those children are under age 31.

■ Legal permanent residents can currently sponsor spouses and children, but the numbers are limited. The bill eliminates that limit.

EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION

■ Within four years, all employers must implement E-Verify, a program to electronically verify their workers' legal status. As part of that, noncitizens would be required to show photo identification that must match with a photo in the E-Verify system. ***(Associated Press)***

SENATE

From Page 1

The bill will be up for full Senate debate in early June.

The landmark bipartisan bill provides a pathway to U.S. citizenship for up to 11 million illegal immigrants.

None of the Senate Judiciary Committee's amendments changed the CNMI-specific provision of S. 744.

This comes less than two years before the end of the federalization transition on Dec. 31, 2014, when the CNMI will be forced to let go of its over 12,000 foreign workers—unless the transition is extended to a later time.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) worked with members of the Senate and their staffers for months to include a CNMI-specific provision. He is cautiously optimistic on the bill, adding that it still has a long way to go before reaching President Barack Obama's desk.

"Three Republicans joined 10 Democrats to support the bill that made no changes to the Northern Marianas provision after considering about 200 amendments… And if the bill clears the Senate, it will take even more work because the Republican House majority is not likely to take it up in its current form," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan said he continues to work with his House colleagues to include the CNMI provisions in a House bill if they can come to some agreement after four years of negotiations.

"So a lot of work remains and I remain cautiously optimistic," Sablan added.

From what he understands, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said S. 744 will come to the Senate floor sometime next month.

The CNMI-specific provision in the Senate bill would allow long-term foreigners to apply for a CNMI-only status within months of the bill's enactment, and then an eventual U.S. permanent residence status or "green card" after a five-year waiting period.

"We are absolutely excited about this. We expected this will happen as fast as what President Obama had in mind. We also expect that Congress will favorably act on it," Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, said yesterday.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, separately said the Senate Judiciary Committee's approval of the bill has fortified the resolve of long-term, legal workers.

"We hope this will push through because this is the only hope left for so many," he said.

The Inos administration is also closely watching actions on the immigration bill. Just like the delegate, the Inos administration is taking a cautious optimism stance on the measure.

"This is one hurdle, but the administration is very well aware that given the magnitude of this legislation, this may turn out to be a long and drawn-out process. Locally, the administration will keep a close eye on the CNMI-specific provisions for any changes that may be made along the way," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment on the committee passage of the bill.

In Washington, D.C., Obama praised the Senate Judiciary Committee's action, saying the bill was consistent with the goals he has expressed. Obama has made enactment of an immigration bill one of his top priorities for this year.

"I encourage the full Senate to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor at the earliest possible opportunity and remain hopeful that the amendment process will lead to further improvements," Obama said in a statement released by the White House.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that the immigration bill is "still up in the air" because it has yet to pass the full U.S. Senate and then the U.S. House of Representatives before reaching Obama.

He said the impacts of such measure, once enacted into law, would depend on the employers and employees. He cited, for example, that many of the best and trusted foreign workers may possibly leave the CNMI once they obtain a green card.

"There are a lot of variables," he said.

The U.S. Senate committee's action on the immigration bill came a day after the CNMI House of Representatives adopted a joint resolution supporting a five-year extension of the transitional Commonwealth-only worker or CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, "to prevent collapse of the CNMI economy."

If the U.S. Labor secretary does not extend the transition program, the CNMI could lose access to most of its foreign workers that the tourism-based local economy has relied on for decades.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the delegate, members of the CNMI Legislature, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and many other entities are one in saying that the CNMI still does not have sufficient number of U.S. workers to take over the jobs of over 12,000 foreign workers. Many of these foreign workers do not qualify for H visas.

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal reiterated that although she is not completely satisfied with the U.S. Senate's CNMI provision, she shares Obama's sentiments that this bill is "clearly a compromise and no one will get everything they wanted."

Once the CNMI-specific provision of the U.S. Senate bill is retained when the measure becomes law, it would allow for foreign workers' travel without what Doromal describes as "restrictive paperwork of the current CNMI-only immigration system."

"Additionally, it would eliminate the expensive and problematic CW visa process for thousands of long-term nonresidents, while also stabilizing the CNMI workforce to encourage economic growth," she added.

RETIREES

From Page 1

local government if and when I end up in the hospital and cannot pay."

Cruz and other retirees like her, as well as all active members of the island's pension program, are constantly beset by an almost paralyzing fear about the imminent collapse of the NMI Retirement Fund, which once promised a comforting life for the islands' government employees in their twilight years.

Actuarial studies have projected that, without a major infusion of cash, the Fund will collapse in March 2014, a mere 10 months away.

Cruz admits that she finds herself altering her lifestyle now to help save money for her future. She's doing without things that she don't absolutely have to have. She fears becoming a burden on the local government when she's eventually forced to line up for food stamps.

"I have always found joy in giving gifts to my kids, their spouses, my grandchildren, my nieces and nephews, children and grandchildren of my 'local' family. It really hurts me that now I am forced to curtail my gift-giving drastically. And now I am sad that I must consider stopping donations I regularly make," she said.

Ron Mandell, who now lives in California and is receiving a pension check of $620 a month, has a little better footing because he has other sources of income but he acknowledges that he would be on the same boat were it not for that extra source of income.

"It will hurt to lose that additional income, but I am one of the lucky ones because I have no family to support, and I will still have my Army Retirement, my Veteran's Administration disability payment, and about $300 a week I earn on the stock market," he said.

If it were not for those other incomes, he admitted he would not be able to sleep at night, due to fear, worry, and anxiety. He has a couple of friends who are also CNMI retirees and who are not so blessed as he is. Their CNMI retirement is their only source of income and if they lose that, they will have to go on welfare, and food stamps to survive, he said.

Mandell, who spent 15 years living and working on Saipan, has had an inkling even then that he may lose his hard earned pension.

"I knew early on in my time on Saipan that the CNMI government was known for failing to keep its promises or fulfill its obligations. Our leaders served not the people but themselves. Our leaders tended to enact legislation primarily because it would benefit themselves, rather than the CNMI people as a whole, and they very often were untruthful," said Mandell.

Even then, he never actually believed that the CNMI's government leaders would let the NMI Retirement Fund die, as it is the sole means of support for so many of their own parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings.

"I banked on the belief that, although our government leaders cared naught about we outsiders, they would certainly not allow their own blood to lose their livelihood. After all, are not our politicians constantly talking about how much they love and cherish their man'amko?" he added.

Sapuro J. Rayphand admits that he doesn't know what he will do next year when the pension program collapses. The depth of the government's betrayal cuts deep and Rayphand could hardly find the words to express how he feels about this treachery.

"How does one fully express his sentiments when he knows very well that he will lose all of his only saving after years of arduous labor because the CNMI government reneges on its promise to pay his pension for the rest of his normal life? When he is no longer able to find a good paying job to support his worn out body or because of his pre-existing medical conditions? When his expensive medical treatments, geriatric care, etcetera, are no longer covered under CNMI current insurance arrangements?"

The questions come without answers, yet Rayphand is fully aware of the horrors that await him come March 2014, when he will be without life necessities, including but not limited to clothing, shelter, and a minimum standard of decent respectable well-being.

"How does one fully express his sentiments when he knows the CNMI government officials knew, or in better positions to know, that the CNMI employer's contributions were arbitrarily and capriciously stopped years ago but government spending continued excessively without abatement or due care for the foreseeable consequences. When he knows that Judge Govendo's judgment was in favor of the Retirement Fund but the CNMI Legislature has not appropriated any funds for that judgment, and they continue to refuse to do so and now causes the precipitous decline of the Retirement Fund?" he added.

For active member Robert H. Hunter, the collapse of the Fund at this point will come if the return of the contributions is thwarted.

"The reality of that is, I will have lost my entire career's worth of contributions without having seen a single penny's benefit from them. I will also not be able to reinvest those monies to help me supplement a very meager Social Security retirement. And we all know that the CNMI will never be able to pay us back those monies along with real potential investment losses," he told Saipan Tribune.

Right now, Hunter said, active employees who have applied to withdraw are the only members who have been losing money on earnings they would have accrued on their investments.

"I lost a home I was going to purchase as that reinvestment in December. It was complete with a long-term tenant. I have to date lost close to $3,000 that would have been put toward my retirement savings or reinvested in property improvements. I have young daughters who will likely be in high school and/or college when I finally get to retire. Taking care of myself and my wife, will not be my only financial concerns then," he shared.

According to Hunter, active members haven't had the benefit of retiring in 20 or less years. "We aren't going to collect eight times what we contributed, we're not going to enjoy the generous and in many cases overly-generous benefits afforded current retirees. No, that idea collapsed a long time ago.

"Our only hope, my only hope, is that I see the immediate return of the monies that were taken out of my pay all of these years, and that I can make something of that money that will help me and my family when I am at an age or in a condition where I am unable to work."

Board raises concern anew about long waits at the ER

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board recently brought up the issue of complaints that they have been getting about recurring problems at the hospital, particularly the long wait of patients at the emergency room.

Anthony Aguon said that due to the bottlenecks at the hospital's ER, many patients feel like they are being brushed aside. He said the situation calls for the immediate attention of the corporation's management.

"I've been getting a lot of complaints [about] the long wait at ER and a lot of people feel like they are being brushed aside. I know we're short of staff but I just want to bring that up for the record," Aguon told his colleagues during Friday's special meeting.

According to corporation interim CEO Esther Muña, the heavy traffic at the emergency room is due to the limited service currently available at the pediatric clinic, where many referrals come from. She said the hospital does not have enough pediatricians to accommodate the volume of children being brought to the unit. This has resulted in the increased volume of patients ending up at the ER every day. The pediatric unit needs two more pediatricians.

"We have a [physician assistant] in the pediatric clinic now, but she's limited on how many patients she could see…so a lot of [walk-in] patients end up going to the ER," Muña explained, adding that PAs can only handle less urgent cases.

Board chair Joaquin Torres said he has also received similar concerns about the hours spent by patients just waiting to be treated. He instructed Muña to partner with private clinics to address this recurring problem.

"I understand that we're going to lose some revenue but the important thing is: we have easy access to care," said Torres, adding that when patients go to the ER, urgent care is a must.

According to Torres, there are some urgent care services that could be handled by some private clinics on island. Working with them will relieve the ER of clogging, he added.

"The important thing for us is to take care of our patients. If we can't accommodate them at the hospital, I think we need to reach out to the private clinics. We don't have enough physicians to take care of everybody, so maybe we can make arrangement with the private doctors to come in, maybe 4-5 hours," said Torres.

Muña pointed out, however, that the participation of private clinics is limited under the new Medicaid program state plan. CHC can only refer patients to private clinics for services that are not available at the public hospital. To do this, a Medicaid patient has to first secure a certification from the hospital CEO in order for that patient to see a private doctor.

Muña also disclosed that past attempts to bring in private doctors had failed.

Physician recruitment

The public hospital remains unstable when it comes to the number of doctors it has, following disclosure that CHC needs at least 13 more physicians to boost the 21 it already has.

Despite having several candidates for some medical staff positions, Muña admitted that only one pediatrician has been formally hired and will start in July.

For the orthopedic unit, two candidates' credentials are still being reviewed, along with two other candidates for internal medicine. There were no updates on the status of other hospital units.

The Tinian Health Center, Muña said, also remains functioning without a permanent physician and health coverage is being conducted in rotation with PAs of the public hospital.

The hospital is also finding it difficult to hire respiratory therapists due to lack of specialists on island.

IN THIS YEAR'S COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Cabrera and Train are NMC's Leadership Awardees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carina Suu Lan Train will be graduating with an associate degree in Nursing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Claire Dina Cabrera will be graduating with bachelor's degree in Education-Elementary Education Concentration.

The Northern Marianas College will bestow this year's leadership award on two individuals: one from the associate degree program and another from the bachelor's degree program.

Claire Dina Cabrera and Carina Suu Lan Train will be awarded the prestigious honor during the commencement rites on Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Cabrera will be graduating with bachelor's degree in Education-Elementary Education Concentration while Train will be graduating with an associate degree in Nursing.

The Student Leadership Award is given annually to a graduating student who demonstrates exceptional leadership and service to the college and community. Nominations for this prestigious award are accepted from students, staff, and faculty, and are then evaluated by a selection committee composed of members of the college community.

Cabrera says there are countless ways in which a person could be described as a good leader but she believes that effective leadership is what makes a leader.

Leadership, she said, is about doing something that could change another person's life, about commitment, and about good character.

"Great leadership comes with humility. In order to be considered a great leader, one must humble himself or herself in order to seek the greater good in people," she said.

Cabrera is an active lector at San Vicente Church since 2002; an adviser of the HJHS Zombie Club; and coordinator for the Class 2-13 baccalaureate Mass.

Carina Suu Lan Train wants to become a nurse practitioner specializing in pediatric oncology and women's health. She is the president of the NMC Nursing Club, and spearheaded campaigns such as the annual NMC Health Fair and the fundraiser "Team Chris" to help a friend.

"Being in a leadership role is something to be taken seriously. A leader is someone who has a compassionate heart and a drive for their particular cause. This someone needs to be determined enough to overcome any obstacle in order to reach their goal," according to Train.

This awardee wants to create in the future a nonprofit organization that will provide disadvantaged youths medical assistance and care.

In addition to the Student Leadership Award, NMC will also be awarding academic excellence awards to students with the highest grade point averages.

NMC will be conferring 180 associate and bachelor degrees on May 25. This is about a 50-percent increase over the graduation numbers last year.

This will also be the first time that students will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree with concentrations in "Early Childhood" or "Rehabilitation and Human Services."

Man gets 6 mos. for receiving stolen computer

A 63-year-old man accused of receiving stolen items and marijuana trafficking pleaded guilty yesterday and was slapped with a six-month prison sentence.

Garry Evilsizer pleaded guilty to a count of receiving stolen property as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Evilsizer to five years in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for time served. He was allowed to start serving his sentence on June 12, 2013.

After finishing his sentence, Evilsizer will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

He was ordered to pay a $200 fine, $500 in probation fees, and $100 in court costs. He was also required to perform 100 hours of community service.

The remaining charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance (marijuana) were dropped.

According to court records, Evilsizer received on Jan. 5, 2013, on Saipan a Dell laptop and desktop monitor that he knew to be stolen property.

Evilsizer and Mohammed Jahangir Miah were arrested in January during the Department of Public Safety's Thief Apprehension Select Coalition's operation against suspected buyers of stolen items. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council

AGENDA

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Special Meeting on Friday, May 24, 2013 at 11:30 a.m., Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

I. **Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda

II. **New Business**
1. Action Items
a. Approval of Parent Activity Funds

III. **Miscellaneous Matters**

IV. **Executive Session**[1]

V. **Next Meeting**

VI. **Adjournment**

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org.

[1] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

/s/ Antonio Mesngon
Chairperson

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DOC-116

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF DUTY UNIFORMS FOR THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICERS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER,
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPL-107

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 25, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"RIGHT OF WAY AND EXCAVATION OF THE PONDING BASIN FOR THE WEST SAN JOSE VILLAGE HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION, TINIAN A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE BID CONFERENCE FOR THIS PROJECT IS SCHEDULED AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ON JUNE 11, 2013 AT THE DPL CONFERENCE ROOM, SAIPAN.

ALL INQUIRIES SHALL BE IN WRITING AND ADDRESSED TO PATRICIA RASA, DIRECTOR , PLANNING DIVISION, DPL, P.O. BOX 500380, SAIPAN, MP 96950 OR FAXED TO (670) 234-3755 AND MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JUNE 14, 2013. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER BIDDERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BE COME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-CRM-120 (R)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 10, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT – ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE BIDDER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
ADMINISTRATOR OF CRM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CUC asks lawmakers for $20M utility appropriations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the House Ways and Means Committee and the full House of Representatives to appropriate at least $20.36 million for power, water, and wastewater service to government agencies in fiscal year 2014, to help maintain CUC's operational stability.

Committee chairman Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said the panel has not decided on CUC's request because they want to bring the matter first to the Inos administration's attention.

"This is a request to address outstanding utility obligations by government agencies to CUC so this should be raised with the administration before we could decide on this," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fletcher

In a May 20 letter to Sablan, CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher said the full cost of utilities has not been budgeted for in prior fiscal years nor appropriations held exclusively for utility payments, resulting in about $15 million in unpaid bills.

"In addition, the lack of full appropriations has resulted in sporadic or irregular payments which pressure CUC's operational stability. CUC does not have cash reserves or operating capital to draw on when payments lag and such deficits occur," Fletcher told Sablan.

The administration's proposed $123.4 million budget for fiscal year 2014 requires that each agency pay for its own utilities.

Fletcher gave the House Ways and Means Committee a breakdown of CUC's proposed appropriations for fiscal year 2014 based on the past 12 months' actual billings: $10.6 million for central government accounts; $5.925 million for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. account; and $3.835 million for the Public School System account.

"CUC feels it is essential that the full cost of utilities for government agencies be appropriated and reserved for utility payments," he said.

In addition, each of these agencies has large outstanding balances.

"CUC also requests acknowledgement of these unpaid balances and that additional monies be appropriated for paying down these obligations," Fletcher told Sablan.

CUC said these past due balances totaling $14.9 million include over $2.438 million in central government accounts; $7.524 million in CHCC accounts; and $4.943 million in PSS accounts.

The House Ways and Means Committee begins its fiscal year 2014 budget hearings today. It aims to have a budget bill ready for House action by mid-June.

CHILD'S PLAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two young tourists climb a giant floater at the Pacific Islands Club's children's pool in San Antonio. Tourist arrivals in the CNMI have climbed up in recent months, and the government expects that this momentum will be maintained in the months ahead.

PH consul general to visit Saipan next month

Consul General Bayani V. Mangabin of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam will make an official visit to Saipan next month where he will call on CNMI government officials and meet with Filipinos on the island.

Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, in a phone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* Monday, said the consul general is due on Saipan from June 4 to 8 and will make the rounds of Commonwealth officials beginning with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hoffschneider, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan).

Mangabin is expected to attend a proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor early next month, when Inos declares June as CNMI-Philippine Friendship Month. Mangibin is also expected to meet with officials of Filipino organizations on Saipan, foremost of which is the United Filipino Organization or UFO.

UFO has scheduled a flag-raising ceremony on June 8 at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe to celebrate the 115th anniversary of Philippine Independence and its president, Annamae Adaza, hopes that Mangabin will grace the occasion.

This year marks the first time in a while that Filipinos on Saipan will be celebrating Philippine Independence Day without its own consular office. The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan closed in October 2012 and jurisdiction over the islands' Filipino community now falls on the consulate general in Agana.

In related news, Auxilian disclosed that the CNMI could have had a labor attaché as early as last year but the Philippine Department of Labor reassigned the official at the last minute to the Middle East.

He said the consulate general in Guam is still awaiting word on who will be assigned to the CNMI and Guam labor attaché office. Auxilian also said the incoming labor attaché will have his plate full as aside from the Marianas, he or she will also have jurisdiction on overseas Filipino workers in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The labor attaché offices in those three areas will be consolidated and will be based at the Guam consulate general. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Humanities council working on Article 12 project

The CNMI Humanities Council is working on a three-part TV program that hopes to educate the public on Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution and the debates that have spawned the controversial issue.

Council executive director Scott Russell served as Rotary Club of Saipan's guest speaker during its weekly luncheon meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday and volunteered that their office is working on the Article 12 project.

Article 12 restricts land ownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

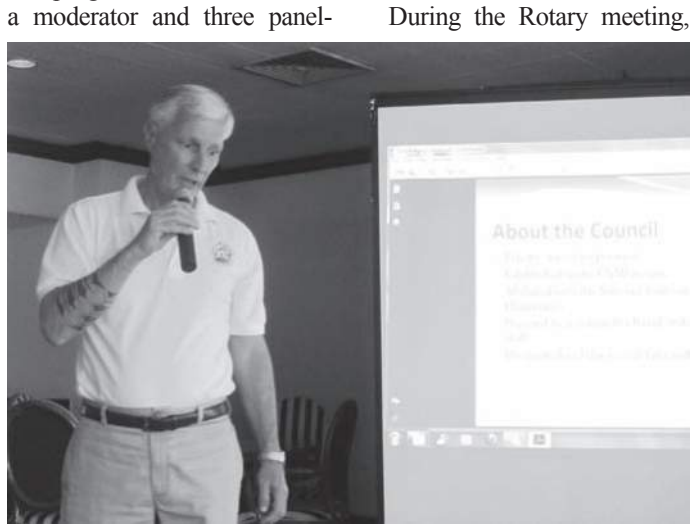
"It's in production. Cathy Perry is overseeing production work. Flame Tree TV is doing the video and editing. Two segments have been shot and the third is being planned," said Scott in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

He emphasized that the council is not taking any side of the controversial issue and has made sure both sides of the Article 12 debate will be heard in the project.

The council's Article 12 project comprises three one-hour TV programs. Each show has a moderator and three panelists. Each panelist represents a point of view (retain, amend, or repeal Article 12).

"Our goal is to educate the public on this topic and to allow for various viewpoints to be discussed in a civil manner," he said.

During the Rotary meeting, Scott also shared some of the projects the council has undertaken throughout the years. Among these include research that studied the connections between the Marianas and the Philippines, both former Spanish possessions.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell shares his office's many projects during last Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"As for our attempts to study connections between the Philippines and Marianas, we have done a couple of projects. There was an essay competition several years ago titled 'The Ties that Bind' that had high school students considering such links."

He said the council also had plans of doing oral interviews to document the stories of Filipinos who came to the CNMI after World War II but the project was placed on hold when their former program officer resigned.

"It may be a project that we will resurrect if we can get support from the community," he said.

Scott added that Augusto de Viana published a book titled *In the Far Islands* that also attempted to cover the Marianas-Philippines connection. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Ladder Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Ladder Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from Ladder Beach had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Supreme Court affirms sex abuse conviction

The Supreme Court has affirmed the conviction of Shafaqul Islam for attempted sexual abuse of a minor.

The case involved two issues: (1) whether a new trial was required due to the absence of a few conversations between the attorneys and the judge (known as "sidebars"); and (2) whether Islam had attempted sexual abuse of a minor.

In its opinion, the high court found that a few missing sidebar conversations from the trial record did not automatically require a new trial. Instead, the defendant needed to show that the missing sidebar conversations seriously harmed his ability to win an appeal. Because Islam did not demonstrate the omissions seriously harmed his appeal, the high court declined to order a new trial.

The court then looked at whether the Commonwealth had proved Islam attempted to sexually abuse a minor. The court answered yes because the evidence sufficiently showed Islam had lured a minor into his room with the promise of money, put an adult show on his television, and then repeatedly pressured the minor to do a sexual act until the minor forced his way out of the room.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Commonwealth v. Islam*, 2013 MP 4, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme13.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

KHS' Muña appointed to BOE as students' rep

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An incoming senior at Kagman High School is the newest member of the CNMI State Board of Education after being appointed yesterday to the post by Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Michaelle Marie Chong Muña, 17, is the daughter of Maria and Michael Muña. She will replace outgoing senior Audrey Joy Ada as the representative of public school students on the Board of Education.

Her appointment does not require the consent of the Senate. Her term will start on June 19 this year.

In determining this year's honorary student representative on the board, Kagman High School held an election that Muña won among six candidates.

"My plans for my term as BOE student representative will be to strive for better learning environments and to create more learning and extracurricular opportunities for all public high schools in the CNMI. I am eager to speak out against teen issues such as drug abuse and domestic violence and excited to give all students a voice in all important matters concerning PSS and its policies," according to Muña.

In his letter to Muña yesterday, BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero said the student representative is a constitutionally mandated position and it is an immense responsibility that should be taken very seriously.

Guerrero said the board looks forward to working with her, adding that her active and contributory participation in the board is very crucial.

Muña is expected to provide the board the students' perspective, as well as her views and recommendations.

Guerrero said that in order to provide a true perspective for students, it will be Muna's responsibility to seek ways to gain an understanding of what that perspective is.

He assured Muña that board members and staff are always ready to give her support and guidance as she takes on her new role.

KHS principal Alfred Ada also extended his personal congratulations to Muña, expressing confidence that she will do her best to meet the needs of public school students.

In her letter to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., Ada disclosed that Muna—along with the other candidates—went through a rigorous selection process that considered her academic and discipline background.

Muña held several leadership positions in school such as president of her school's music club, treasurer of the prom committee, and a member of the Youth Advisory Panel. She also volunteers in many community events and fundraising activities for the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keynotes School of Music director Mila Merjilla, leftmost, back row, and program emcee Lisa Espiritu, leftmost, second row, pose with music teachers Dinah Medina, leftmost, first row, and Ryan Isidro, rightmost, second row, and their students after the successful recital titled "2013 Spring Music Festival" held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on May 18, 2013.

Recital a success for Keynotes School of Music

Thirty-six students of Keynotes School of Music, including several 5-year-old participants, performed at the "2013 Spring Music Festival" held on May 18, 2013, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The recital showcased the progress and skills of both new and long-time music students in playing the piano, keyboard, guitars (electric, acoustic, and classical), bass guitar and drums.

Two students, Karon Onil Pagcu and Erica Faye Tubera, who are both gold medalists at the 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival, added excitement with their own performances, much to the pleasure of the audience.

The KSM management congratulates and thanks all participants for another successful recital and extends its gratitude to all supporters and advertisers in the souvenir magazine.

The "2013 Spring Music Festival" recital will soon be aired on KSPN Channel 2.

Keynotes School of Music will be holding a special summer-long music instruction program starting June 1, 2013. For more information, call KSM director Mila Merjilla at 234-0898 or music teacher Dinah Medina at 233-6872. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rehearsal for NMC graduates

In anticipation of the Northern Marianas College's 33rd Commencement Exercise on Saturday, May 25, 2013, at 4pm, all NMC graduation candidates are reminded to attend the graduation rehearsal the day before on Friday, May 24, at 4pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Important information about the ceremony and degree materials will be shared during the rehearsal. For more information visit www.nmcnet.edu or contact 234-5498 Ext. 1537. The public invited to NMC's graduation ceremony. ***(NMC)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting today, May 23, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Half-day today at MHS

To all parents and legal guardians of the Mighty Dolphins of Marianas High School: We will be distributing the 4th Quarter Mid-Progress Report today, May 23, 2013, from 4pm to 6pm in the MHS Gymnasium. Students will be released at 1pm on this day to allow the school time to prepare for the event. This Friday, May 24, 2013, there will be no school due to Professional Development for the staff. If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting today

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting today, May 23, 2013, 6:30pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda's residence in As Lito. Your attendance at this meeting is very important as the topic of discussion will be the class' upcoming 25th year silver class reunion. ***(PR)***

Red Cross sets annual meeting

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross will be conducting its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 29, at 5:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All Red Cross volunteers, donors and the general public are welcome. The meeting will provide an overview of Red Cross services as well as a recap of the current fiscal year, financial reports and an election of its board of directors. For more information, call the Chapter at 234-3459 or go to www.redcross.org/nmi. ***(ARC)***

Robots battle in 'Yapital Robo Day' contest

In this file photo, SDA participants from last years Yapital Robo Day show off their robot and controller. HABELE

YAP, MICRONESIA—Over 100 students, teachers, and parents convened in Colonia at the Yap Community Center in late May to support student robotic teams from Yap Catholic High School and the Yap SDA School. The inter-school robotics league—and its end-of-the-year exhibition—is the only extracurricular robotics program in the Central Pacific.

The competition began with facilitator Larry Raigetal of "Waa'gey," who explained the ground and technical rules of the competition. Raigetal also provided the audience with background information of the program, now in its second year.

He explained how each school provided their student teams with classroom and after school instruction during the course of the school year.

The Robo Day event marked a final display of progress and competition, but the goals of the ambitious extracurricular program were being met throughout the last nine months. Both teams had designed and built their robot from an elementary parts kit, honing and improving the robots' performance through trial and error over two semesters.

Each of the two-student team was given five minutes to operate their robots through the predetermined game course during two timed rounds. The Yap SDA team won a coin tossing and was given the opportunity to lead off the first round. Both teams were tied at 13 points after the first round. Following some readjustments to the robots, the second round was given to Yap Catholic High School to lead off. The final score for the game was 20 points for Yap Catholic High School and Yap SDA garnering 17 points.

The competition this year brought more excitement to the crowd as the two robots were greatly modified by the teams, allowing them to maneuver and move about the course at higher speeds than last year. Both teams did exceptionally well in operating their robots. Fr. Michael Corcoran SJ, principal of Yap Catholic High School, said he was very happy with the turnout and was most impressed at the improvement made by both robotic teams.

"Last year after the first round, the score was only 1-0. This is a huge improvement," he said.

Principal Ryan of Yap SDA shared Corcoran's enthusiasm. Local television and media were also on site to interview the teams and their coaches following the event.

The U.S.-based charity "Habele" coordinated the event, with financial support from the European based electronic payments firm "Yapital."

The Yap-based Waa'gey organization organized the exhibition and served as a liaison to educators and team members throughout the school year.

Larry Raigetal of Waa'gey declared the event a major success. "Not only did we see great improvements on the performance of the teams and their modified robots this year, the level of turnout and excitement of those who came only makes us want to work harder for a better event next year!" ***(Habele)***

Corporate Challenge softball tourney this weekend

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its Corporate Challenge Softball Tournament his Sunday, May 26, at the Capital Hill Belfield.

So far, 15 SSC member companies have submitted their $300 registration fees and signed up for the one-day tournament.

The confirmed teams include ASC Trust, TakeCare Insurance, Micro Corp., Triple J Enterprises/Hertz, IT&E, G4S Security, DFS Galleria, Delta Management, APHI/Fiesta Resort/Kanoa Resort, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Coca Cola/Glimpses, MARPAC, IP&E, Pacific Islands Club, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

SSC will award a SCC Corporate Challenge Trophy and the Team Sportsmanship Award after the conclusion of the competition. There will also be a Best Tent Award, one Coca Cola has won the last two years.

Proceeds from the softball tournament will be used for Sac's college scholarship awards program, which annually awards $2,000 to six worthy college students.

"We know it will be an exciting tournament and a great corporate outing, but it exemplifies the membership's commitment to Saipan's community and our high school students' college education," said SSC executive director Richard Pierce.

The $12,000 worth of college scholarship will be presented to the six lucky students at Sac's June 5 general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort.

The Corporate Challenge Softball Tournament is one of the two fund-raising events SCC holds each year to fund the college scholarship awards. The other is the SCC Golf Tournament. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Puerto Rico guv endorses Obama position on status

Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro Garca Padilla said yesterday that the public policy of his administration, in terms of political status, is to support the position of U.S. President Barack Obama to ensure that all alternatives are treated fairly.

This policy was set out yesterday in a concurrent resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in which they informed Obama and the U.S. Congress the results of the plebiscite held on Nov. 6, 2012, and supported the presidential request to allocate $2.5 million to address this issue.

"Contrary to the position taken by the Resident Commissioner, this administration supports the position of the White House to provide fair treatment to all status options in an upcoming referendum endorsed by Congress," said Padilla.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24 informs Obama and Congress that in the first question of the plebiscite held on Nov. 6, 2012, which asked voters whether or not Puerto Rico should maintain its current form of political status, 53.9 percent voted "No" while the "Yes" option was favored by 46 percent of voters.

The second question asked voters to choose from options that excluded the current political status and the results were as follows: Statehood, 44.4 percent; Sovereign Free Associated State, 24 percent; Independence, 4 percent; and 26 percent cast blank ballots.

During this referendum, Commonwealth supporters employed two mechanisms to protest the plebiscite by casting a blank ballot or choosing the Sovereign Free Associated State option.

"The foregoing shows that the representations that have been or will be made to the Congress of the United States to the effect that the statehood option was favored by the majority of Puerto Ricans do not correspond to the reality of the status plebiscite results held on Nov. 6, 2012," reads the resolution.

The governor emphasized, however, that the priority of his administration is to focus on addressing the challenges of unemployment and crime and not on issues that divide the country.

"We are focused on a unifying fight against crime and unemployment. Status must be handled in a responsible and fair manner, not in a sectarian way as certain groups are attempting to do," said Padilla. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 23, 2004

NMI airports seek ADA compliance

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has finalized the bid package for all three CNMI airports' passenger lift device, which would assist passengers with disabilities and bring the airports into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the Federal Aviation Administration has already approved the passenger lift device project for the Saipan International Airport, the West Tinian International Airport, and the Rota Airport. "The CPA received the FAA's concurrence to combine all three airports in the procurement of the lift device under one contract but each airport has its own respective Airport Improvement Project numbers," Salas said.

House amends rules on emergency regs

The House of Representatives passed a measure intended to stop the abuse of emergency regulations after a review disclosed that these regulations are being used beyond their intended purposes. Also, the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations said the term "public interest" has been expansively used to justify the adoption of regulations that are clearly not of an urgent nature. In 2003, the more notable emergency regulations that were issued numbered 11, including amendments to the Solid Waste Collection Disposal Regulations, the creation of a program for dog control, the Group Health Insurance Program, the annual leave provision section of the Excepted Service Personnel Regulations, the Election Commission's regulations, the Bureau of Taxicab regulations, the immigration regulations and the reallocation of nonresident workers quota in the garment industry.

May 23, 2005

Former public auditor files $750K suit vs CNMI

A former public auditor in the CNMI has filed a lawsuit at the U.S. District Court of Idaho, seeking damages of over $750,000 against the CNMI government, three CNMI magistrates, former attorneys at the Attorney General's Office, and the Department of Interior. Robert D. Bradshaw, who served as temporary public auditor for the CNMI from 1993 to 1994, claimed to have suffered from injustice in proceedings at the CNMI courts, which led to a $139,000-default judgment against him. Bradshaw, a 71-year-old resident of Idaho, has also asked attorney general Pamela Brown to prosecute alleged postal fraud that was committed in effecting service of summons on the auditor in the CNMI court proceedings, when no actual service allegedly occurred.

'Specialized roles key for islands' growth'

Office of Insular Affairs economist Wali Osman said the CNMI could develop specialized roles for its major islands, projecting growth in tourism that remains a premier industry for the Commonwealth. Osman made the statement before businessmen and government officials during the Marianas Roundtable dinner reception Friday. Although the crux of Osman's remarks focused on developing the CNMI's education industry by implementing a program similar to the aborted Pacific Gateway project, he also suggested developing specialized roles for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota amid expected improvement in the tourism industry.

May 23, 2006

Auditors told: More suggestions, less fault-finding

Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary David Cohen urged public auditors yesterday to provide timely suggestions, rather than reporting on wrongdoing after it has been done. Cohen made this call at the Congress meeting of the South Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions, a gathering of over 30 government auditors from 23 countries. "While we appreciate being told everything we did wrong a year after the fact, wouldn't it be better if you could actually catch us before we mess up?" said Cohen, the keynote speaker at the five-day Congress meeting. "The only thing better than good information is good information that arrives in time for you to use it," he added.

House OKs $193.5M budget resolution

The House of Representatives has approved the $193.5 million appropriation limit submitted by the Fitial administration for fiscal year 2007. In a 15-0 vote, the lawmakers adopted House Concurrent Resolution 15-1 to endorse $208.6 million as the total identified budgetary resources for FY 2007. But this amount was reduced to $193.5 million after consideration of fund transfers and certain fixed expenses. Some $1.6 million of the proceeds of the cigarette excise tax needs to be transferred to the tobacco control fund. Another 10 percent or $2.5 million of excise taxes is due for transfer to the solid waste fund.

Residential recycling program kicks off on Saipan

On Thursday, May 16, the CNMI Energy Division Office, in association with the Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Management Office and representatives from Rising Star, officially began distributing recycling bins to residential consumers on Saipan.

The first three recipients that received recycling bins are Augustine M. Camacho, Marlene C. Cruz, and Susana B. Dris. Each recipient received each of the three color-coded recycling bins under the program for the collection of qualified recyclables at their homes.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

From left to right, Yasuhito Irinaka, EECBG program manager; Roy Tarope, EECBG Solid Waste Program coordinator; Augustine Camacho, recipient; Jerome Wong, production and safety manager, Rising Star; Lydia V. Parks, operations manager, Rising Star; Marlene C. Cruz, recipient; Enrique T. Dela Cruz, branch manager, Solid Waste Management Division; Susana B. Dris, recipient; Regina A. Villacrusis, former EECBG program manager; Kenneth Kaneshi, EECBG solid waste program coordinator; and Vincent S. Attao, Energy deputy director.

The program is designed to educate students and the community about the importance of recycling to conserve available resources and contribute to the efforts of reducing the effects of global warming through funding opportunity made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, through a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The program also includes a School Incentive Program in which a participant would have the opportunity to select a school of their choice to compete in the program to receive monetary prizes to assist the Energy Division in its efforts to educate students and the community about the importance of recycling and conservation.

The Energy Division continues to make applications available to interested individuals Monday to Friday, except holidays, from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office at the Springs Plaza on Gualo Rai until all recycling bins are distributed.

Residential recycling bins will be provided to residents on a first-come, first-served basis or while supplies last. Program ends Sept. 30, 2013.

For additional inquiries and complete information on the terms and conditions of the program, contact the Department of Public Works, Division of Energy – Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office at 664-4487/89/90 or visit the office. ***(Office of the Governor)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's FC players and officials and volunteers from Shirley's Coffee Shop pose on the beach at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel during their appreciation party last Saturday.

Shirley's toasts staff, soccer players

Shirley's Restaurant and Coffee Shop and Shirley's Football Club held an appreciation party last Saturday at the back of the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe.

The event started with a 30-minute cleanup of the surrounding beach area where the 30 or so volunteers managed to fill about 10 trash bags with garbage.

Next up was the distribution of certificates of participation for the over 70 players of Shirley's FC. The club's players saw action in five age groups in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association competitions last season. It has seven players in the U6 division, 11 in the U8, 20 in U10, 16 in U12, and a total of 17 players in the U15 division.

Shirley's FC also gave out certificates of appreciation to the club's coaches: Melanie Rabago, Ericka Dela Rosa, and Ronnee Lee Inaldo for U6, Macoi Aguda and Lee Wolf of U8, Joseph Rasa of U10, Fradel Sedillo of U12, and Sedillo and Yeong Gil Kim of U15.

Shirley's FC general secretary Puy Macario thanked everyone in attendance and congratulated the players and coaches for another successful soccer season.

Soccer players also took part in a number of drills before enjoying a lunch buffet.

Participants acknowledged that the party was a welcome respite at the end of school and work week. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Remains of WWII vet found on Saipan to be buried

FREEMANSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A military burial is scheduled in eastern Pennsylvania for a World War II soldier whose remains were recovered after more than 65 years.

The *Express-Times* reports that William Yawney was a 23-year-old Army private when he was killed on Saipan in July 1944, as Allied forces were trying to secure the island.

The family initially received a letter saying he had been buried at a military cemetery on Saipan, but the Department of Defense later said no grave for Yawney was found. The department said an archaeological company working on Saipan uncovered remains in 2011 that were confirmed to be Yawney's.

Now, the family has scheduled a full military burial for 10:30am Saturday at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Cemetery in Northampton.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy anniversary to my Nino John Paul and Nina Theresa Camacho! I wish you both the best that life can bring. I love you! Greetings come from your Nikki Marie C. Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to my brother, Gregory C. Santos! Hope you have a wonderful day! Greetings come from your one and only sister, Nikki Marie C. Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Loran M. Pua who is celebrating his special day today! May the Lord bless you with lots of happiness and good health. Greetings coming from your familias.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Birthday RJ. May God bless you always and many more to come. We love you, from the family.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Increase in greenhouse gases reaches ominous milestone

Milestones are usually to be cheered, but not the one the world reached at 8pm on Thursday, May 9. For the first time in millions of years the level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere reached above 400 parts per million.

So what, you say? It's just a bunch of scientific numbers. Not really. What these numbers tell us is that within 25 years, if we continue to produce CO2 at our present rate, we can expect significant alterations in our climate. Our seas will rise as the Earth heats up more in summer, melting the ice caps. Storms—both the summer and winter kinds—will get more extreme. As the amount of CO2 in oceans increases, more dead zones in offshore waters will spread.

What such changes will most affect, hands down, is the global economy. And one of the major economic casualties of rising sea levels and increasing temperatures will be Florida. Sure, 25 years from now the waves won't be lapping at Disney World's gates, but they will be washing away more of our wonderful, tourist-dollar-luring beaches. Coastal cities' drinking water supplies will suffer bigger salt-water intrusions, and residents in those cities will be in a gradual retreat from the encroaching tides.

This doesn't have to be the inevitable scenario. Not if Washington would stop its political infighting and finally start to listen to its own scientists. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced the CO2 milestone after recording the numbers at its monitor on Mauna Loa in Hawaii last Thursday. NOAA has been tracking CO2 levels for more than 50 years there.

And the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego confirmed NOAA's findings, with its scientists issuing warnings that we are quickly losing the possibility of keeping the climate below what we consider "tolerable." (Later, NOAA adjusted its reading slightly to 399.89, but the Scripps Institute said its reading remained just above was 400.)

Bluntly put: Our window of opportunity for reducing CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions is about to slam shut.

What a terrible legacy we will leave if Washington can't—very soon—find consensus on developing and making practical alternatives to the continued use of fossil fuels, particularly oil. There have been steps taken—in fits and starts—over the years. The Obama administration took a big one by increasing emission standards in vehicles.

But what else President Obama can initiate to curb greenhouse gases more in a Congress that can't, or simply won't, agree with him on much of anything is in doubt. The only thing that will force Congress' hand may be pressure—lots of it—from those who do listen to the government's scientists. Topping that list should be Florida's leaders. The Sunshine State has so much to lose in the climate-change era. Governor Scott, are you listening?

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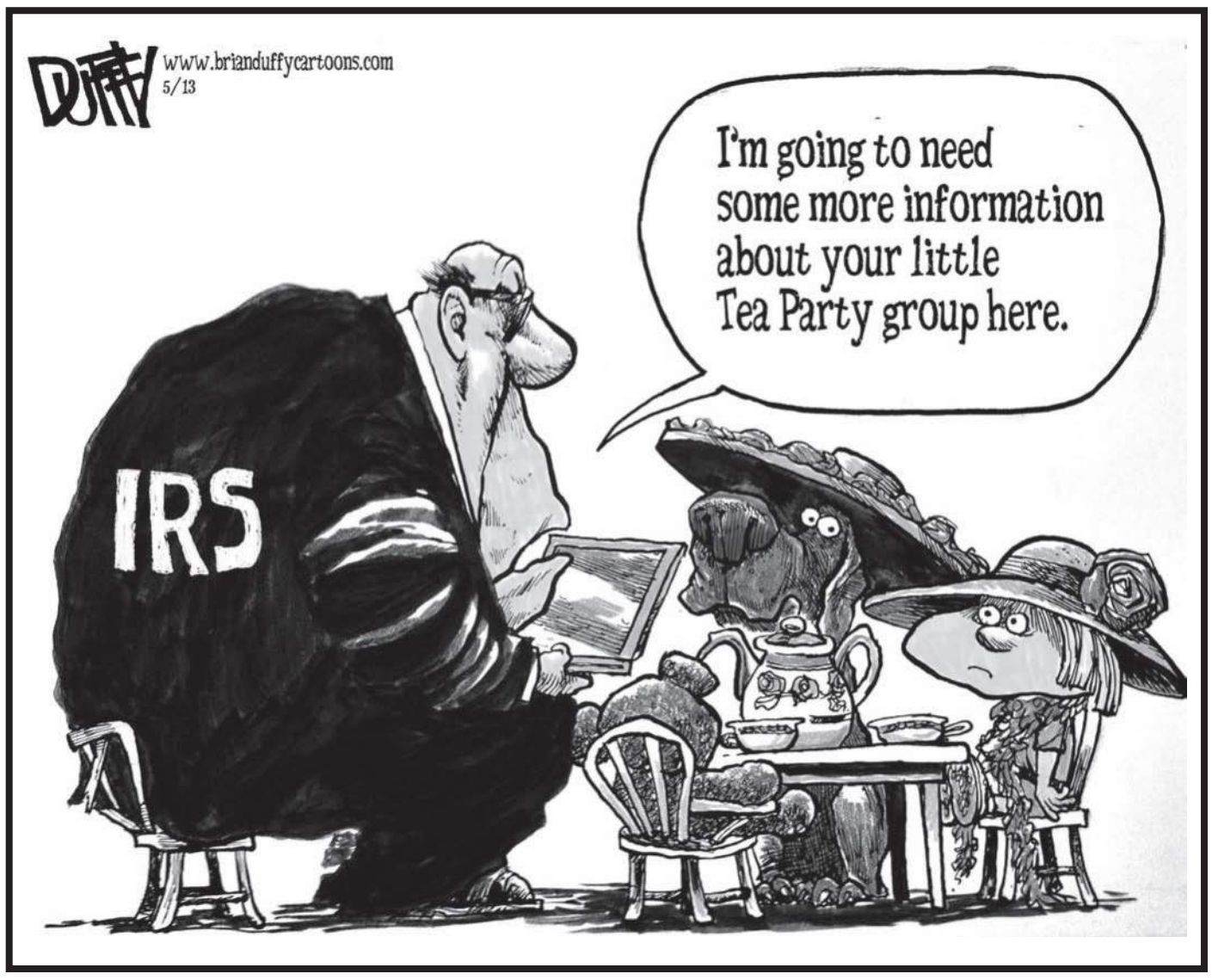


NMDs speak out against planned use of Pagan

Editor's Note: The following is NMDC Resolution 2013 -01 that was recently adopted by the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a non-profit chartered corporation, to oppose the U.S. military's planned use of Pagan in the Northern Islands.

Last part of a series

Furthermore, it mentioned that: Special use of airspace will be needed over any island proposed for RTAs and MARFORPAC (Marine Corps Forces, Pacific) as executive agent, will seek designation of such airspace in coordination with FAA once a Record Decision has been completed for the EIS/OEIS (Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environment Impact Statement). In addition, maritime danger zones may be required along the coastlines adjacent to DoD-controlled property; and

Whereas, it is understood that the scoping meetings held on Sa'ipan and Tini'an (Rota not included) is to seek public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS/OEIS as regard to potential environmental impact, which is not limited to: noise, cultural resources, transportation, utility, socioeconomic, biological resources, geology and soil, water quality, air quality, airspace, land use, recreation, safety, hazardous materials and waste, visual resources, and environmental justice. With the limited information of the proposed U.S. military exercises on Pagan, and the experiences that the Chamorro and Carolinian people had been subjected to live with under the U.S. military rule on Sa'ipan, and the U.S. military's deliberately covert and strategically secretive operations, we strongly and unambiguously believe the U.S. military's proposal for continuous and uninterrupted trainings for U.S. forces and U.S. allies and combined-level training of the entire Island of Pagan for U.S. military activities for air warfare, amphibious warfare, surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, strike warfare, electronic warfare, naval special warfare, etc. will severely limit, preempt, and/or impede any likely possibility and feasibility of former indigenous Northern Marianas descent residents and others of fulfilling their lifelong aspirations and desires to relocate and resettle and reside on the islands north of Sa'ipan, thus adversely impacting and irreparably devastating the economic, social, health, and welfare of our people, and our fragile environment—land, sea, and air, which we expect to last indefinitely beyond our lifetime; and

Whereas, in view of the proposed use for U.S. military exercises on Pagan, which was briefly cited and mentioned in the notice above, and the complexity of such proposal, the time allowed for such scoping on Saipan and Tinian and for the review process is too short and limited for the Chamorro and Carolinian persons to comprehend such proposal; therefore, MARFORPAC should consider allowing for more time for public input/comment in the evaluation process on the environmental impact; and to conduct informative public forum allowing for face-to-face question-and-answer sessions on such proposed U.S. military training exercise activities on Pagan; and

Whereas, it is understood that the proposed U.S. military development and exercise is for the U.S. military to comply with the mandate of the U.S Constitution in defending the United States from all enemies, etc., and to comply with Title 10 of the U.S.C. for combat readiness to win wars, etc; hence, the military should take into serious consideration and respect the intent of Section 104 of Article l of the Covenant, which applies only to matters relating to foreign affairs and defense which affects the Northern Mariana Islands; and

Whereas, the proposed U.S. military development and exercises on Pagan will place the entire island, including sea, and airspace under military control. Danger zones will be mapped out for the safety of all traveling within the area. Traveling to and from any of the islands north of Saipan by boat or airplane will be very restrictive. It will essentially prohibit any development which promotes economic growth and recovery for the CNMI and more importantly the planned resettlement of Pagan by former residents and other people who have expressed interest to reside on Pagan. And, even if the resettlement of Pagan is allowed by the U.S. military, the people of Pagan will be confined to an area not used by the U.S. military. The extent and intensity of the proposed and preferred alternative military training, such military activities will unmistakably and most certainly destroy wildlife and habitats of the endangered species of birds, coconut crabs, fruit bats, and other animals and possibly drive them to extinction, all of which are our indigenous Northern Marianas descents' traditional sustenance since time immemorial to date; and

Whereas, the proposed U.S. military development and exercises on Pagan clearly undermines and violates the provisions of Article l, Section 105, and Article Vlll, Sections 805 and 806 of the Covenant, therefore, the U.S. military should steadfastly take into serious consideration and unequivocally, unmistakably, unambiguously, and unwaveringly respect and honor the intent and spirit of said Articles and Sections of the Covenant as mutually agreed to by the U.S. government and the NMI government; and

Whereas, an integral and requisite element of the public scoping process for any proposed impacts of and by the U.S. military's actions is unconditional compliance to the Section 106 Process of the National Historic & Preservations Act and for which NMDC hereby officially requests to become a consulting party hereon forward.

See NMDs on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mariban Moneda

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Mampos dañkulu tumunogña i monedan (budget) para otru sakan.. Taigue esta i hagas fuetsudu na koduta taiguihe bente años malofan. Megai ahensia ti man-pinalala'e. Para sueddu ha' maprebeniye. Yangin sueddu sin fondu para programa, pues tai bali i sueddu. Siempre guaguan na tropan pusuelon kafe diariu, no? De dios mihu!

I programan man-indihinau (natibu) todu tiempu i mefe'na mana kesnuda gi bandan moneda. Na ti tautau tanu' ta espihahaye appottunidat gi ineyag cho'chu' para u fan siña sumupotta familian niha? Taimanu u guaha ayudu 'nai ma-utot sin ditension offisina siha ni numesessita ausiliu man-ayuda? Hu hassu inefresen "better times"gi mas ke 6,000 na tautau-ta ni mantai che'chu', pat lacheyu'?

■ ■ ■

Otru asunto-ta

Makombida un' membron lehislatura para u fan na'e "keynote address" gi un' okasion ni nina' guahaye ni Public School System. Ti mattu i makombida sa' guaha mas presisu asuntoña.

Mattu dispues umekuñgog. 'Nai ha li'e haye man-gaige ilegña, "Mauleg na ti hu atrebiyu' kumuentos gi halom man-edukau ni puru masters degrees!" Humidde ha admite na ti listugue' dumeskute inadiñgan "edukau" na konbetsasion.

Muñga hinalañg lau taitai ya unna guaha "edukau" na kinemprende haf' sessu i asuntu. Siña ha' mangai degree lau i edukau na kinemprende-mu impottante gi diniskuten todu asuntun linahyan. Dispues ni unu gumugu'ot tronun minalate' yan tinemtum.

■ ■ ■

Masita un' saina pot aguaguat patgoña ni maestro. Lalalu' ya ha sañgane maestro "Che'chumu para un' eduka i patgonhu". I asuntu pot aguaguat lahiña ni gai defektu lau ti malago' ha admite haf' probleman patgoña. Ti maestro problema! I saina ni no siakassu gi probleman patgoña. Mamirese este na grupon mañaina akonsehu pot para u komprende obligasion saina.

■ ■ ■

Kulan sessu ta taitai 'sino huñgog gi gaseta ma-abusan patgon, piot ma-estanen minot de idat na patgon palao'an. Gi tatten este na che'chu' satbahe usun amot binenu 'sino maneska ni umatisa mañan galagu kontra i innosiente.

Yangin un' u'usa i tailaye na amot 'sino ti un' tuñgu' usun maneska, dinancheña yangin un' chagu'e ya un' sede familia-mu pas yan trañkilida gi ha'anen niha. Saunau gi areglun saina sa' linilesmu ennau siha na famaguon. Ayuda i asaguamu gi che'chu' kabales na matriatkan yan patriatkan familia.

Yangin un' nesessita ayudu, maulegña un' famaisen ke un' chansa mahala halom gi kotte yan presu sin presisu. Manlistu i konseheru umekstende kanai niha para un' ma-ayuda.

■ ■ ■

Mampos finu i paire na achog malag manu debi u guaha sausau yan otru trastes ginasgas. Un' dia tuminane' gi halom tanu'. 'Nai ha etgue-gue', ha dulug i papet etgue ya nina'ye kalulotña take'. Ha sague' ensegidas ya ha danche un' hayu ya nina' kalamle. Ha hala gotpe ya hana' hanau halom gi pachotña. Lastima finuña!

■ ■ ■

Mañgge' lahihu estoria gi un' magayin (magazine) pot kantan todu rasan tautau. I apaka' na Amerikanu puru pot guinaiya. I Indian megaiña pot hanom. Era, i Indian mañasaga gi fina' disettu (desert) ayu mina' pot hanom ha kakanta—hanom para i tinanomña yan pinegsaiña.

I pelun yan morenu pot guyinaiya gi todu klasen batida deste guinife, mayute', yan otru siha palabras ni rumidonduye sunidon guinaiya. Mamaisen i Indian kau taya' gumuaiya i pelun yan morenu na puru pot guinaiya kantaña siha? Nañgga sa' guaha lokue' kantan mame pot pagyu yan haligen telefon ni in' sisifa' 'an Bietnes pagamientu! A` Saina!

■ ■ ■

Mamaisen i prohimu taimanu para laimeña in mas metgot gi tropan niha. Mafana'gue haf' para u chogue. Ha saulag i paire ya hana' tisu. 'Nai kahulu' dispues matanchu'e ni chumo'gue. Ti matman kumeha haye-gue' tumagu'. Ilegña i managu', "Lau ti hu sañgane hau na para unna' dururu!" De dios! ***

Mattu un' kabayeru sasalaguan 'nai ha fagcha'e duru i gipot. Gi sigiente dia kimason todu i tanu ya bula man-mamatai. Tat lugat ti lamog gi katkuet direksion. Mamaisen mañge ayu na lugat i hali'e nigap. Masañgane, "Nigap ha'anen kampen (campaign) tiempon man-promesa. Pa'gu na ha'ane tiempon diberas taimanu un' lili'e guine". Dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

Un' tuñgu ha' kumu ti listu yan preparau i maestron serimoñas sa' kontodu tento' ha abibiba gi kada biahe na ha gu'ot i tubu. Dudayu' kau i finatoghu pot tento'. Ñalañg titanos-hu finu' man-tomtum ni man-gai sustansia. Man-namase' lokue' i kandidatu sa' megaiña ti kumomprende haf' asunton niha yan pot ke motibu, haf' na tumatachu-gue' publikamente.

In service of the public interest

By MAYA KARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya B. Kara is vice president of the CNMI Bar Association.

The CNMI Bar Association firmly believes that the quality of justice in a community depends, in large part, on the quality of its judiciary. The public must have confidence that the men and women who sit on the bench and make decisions that will substantially affect their lives are persons of integrity, moral courage, experience and legal knowledge. To this end the Bar Association has resolved to establish a mechanism by which judicial nominees, as well as sitting judges and justices who are up for retention, are evaluated by members of the Bar Association. This mechanism was established by Resolution of the Association in 2002 and amended in 2003. The evaluation criteria and rating system the Bar uses was adopted from a model established by the American Bar Association.

In accordance with its Resolution, the Bar Association has been conducting evaluations of judges and justices who are up for retention election since 2002. Justices Demapan, Castro, and Manglona and Judges Lizama, Naraja, Wiseman, Govendo, Maglona, and Inos were all evaluated prior to their respective elections for retention. Because retentions are had by popular vote at a general election, there is always sufficient time to conduct evaluations. Unfortunately this is often not the case with judicial nominations. Very often, the time between nomination and confirmation is very brief; there is simply not enough time to survey the Bar. This was true for the recent nomination of Judge Camacho. Evaluations of Justice Castro's move from justice to chief justice and the elevation of Judge Perry Inos from the Superior to the Supreme Court were not evaluated by the Bar; these members of the judiciary had been evaluated previously at their retention elections.

In the instance of the judicial nomination of Raymond "Ray" Quichocho, we were fortunate to have sufficient time after nomination to allow the Bar Association to conduct a survey. The evaluation forms were sent out by email to all active members on Monday, May 13, 2013. Responses were due by 4:30pm, Friday, May 17, 2013. Members had the option of delivering their responses in person, by email attachment, or by facsimile. Normal Bar Association office hours are 9am to 1pm, Monday through Friday. On Friday, May 17, the office was kept open until 4:30pm, specifically to give members additional time to respond. In addition, votes could be submitted at the Bar Association's monthly meeting, which was held on May 17; notice of the meeting was sent to all members. After 4:30pm, the responses were opened, counted, and collated. All documents identifying the respondents were destroyed but the responses themselves were retained for record purposes. Results of the survey were emailed to members of the Bar Association on Monday, May 20, 2013. Letters to the governor, lieutenant governor and the presiding officers of the Legislature informing them of the survey and results were hand-delivered the same day.

The Bar Association has made every effort to conduct the survey process free of bias. A significant number of lawyers practicing law in the CNMI have expressed their views with regard to attorney Quichocho's qualifications for judicial office. These views have been conveyed to our leaders. Our responsibility ends there. We believe that surveys such as this one serve the public interest by providing an assessment of the candidate made by his or her peers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Renew OWWA membership now

In reference to the news item "PH labor attaché for CNMI done deal" (*Saipan Tribune*, May 20, 2013), I am writing this to encourage my fellow OFWs to update their OWWA membership.

While it is true that prior to the closure of the Philippines Consulate General on Saipan, the outgoing consulate officials did encourage OFWs to renew their OWWA membership before October 2011. After almost two years after its closure, a lot of my fellow OFWs now have expired OWWA memberships, with no means of renewing their memberships onsite. The Guam Philippine Consulate General has no OWWA representative to cater to OFWs renewals on Saipan.

There was a proposal to have one of the remittance companies on Saipan be used for OWWA memberships renewals but, according to then OWWA representatives on Saipan, the Manila office did not respond positively. Had the Philippine Consulate General pursued any of the remittance companies to process OWWA memberships, we wouldn't have this problem we are experiencing now.

The best option to renew our OWWA membership is during our vacation in the Philippines or with our immediate families back home. In doing so, we need to fill up forms and provide additional documents as proof of overseas work.

For those who would like to renew their OWWA membership in the Philippines through their immediate relatives, these are the requirements needed to facilitate processing.

1. Photocopy of passport pages bearing: name of OFW, signature of OFW, picture of OFW; last "Departure" stamp of immigration authorities from the Philippines; last "Arrival" stamp of immigration authorities at the port of entry in the work site country.

2. Any additional evidence of employment as may be required validating the OFWs continued presence and employment abroad. Example: updated employment contract or pay slip.

3. Authorization letter

4. Declaration of intent for OWWA membership

5. Payment (peso) equal to $25

6. Duly filled out OFW Information Sheet.

These are the things that I did when I asked my relative back home to renew my expired OWWA membership. You too can do it. Don't wait for your future needs to pin you down before thinking of renewal, with no one to turn to other than our caring friends or concerned individuals. We need to act now if we care for our families back home. This is better than nothing at all.

Carlito J. Marquez
Lower Base, Saipan

NMDs

From Page 10

Strict adherence to Section 106 process means the U.S. military must unequivocally comply to prevent potential adverse effects on historic properties such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, and traditional cultural properties considered sacred to the heritage and traditions of indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians in order to mitigate adverse effects when any undertaking may alter characteristics that qualify historical properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, cultural resources such as archaeological sites, pre-contact sites, historic sites, etc. in particular the geographic extent to which the proposed actions may have direct and/or indirect effects on historic and cultural resources and properties.

Now, therefore, in view of the information cited in the Federal Register/Vol. 78, No. 50/Thursday, March 14, 2013/Notices 16257, the proposed U.S. military development and exercises intent on the entire island of Pagan with full spectrum of weapons and joint training activities, and if enforced, will irreparably impact and devastate the fragile environmental, historic, cultural, and human resources not only of our ancestral homeland of Pagan, but of our ancestral homeland of the entire Northern Mariana Islands archipelago. In addition, the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. believe that such proposed U.S. military training and exercises on Pagan do not take into serious consideration respecting the intent and spirit of said articles and sections of the Covenant. Therefore, the officers and members of Northern Marianas Descent Corp., for and on behalf of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people of Northern Marianas descent, unequivocally oppose and unanimously disapprove the proposed U.S. military development and tactical exercise activities on our culturally, historically, and environmentally rich, serene, and irreplaceable ancestral homeland island of Pagan unlike any other on Earth.

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., on May 10, 2013, unanimously approved and adopted this resolution.

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. is represented by Ana S. Teregeyo as president, Karl T. Reyes as vice president, Daniel O. Quitugua as secretary, and Rose T. Ada-Hocog as treasurer.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

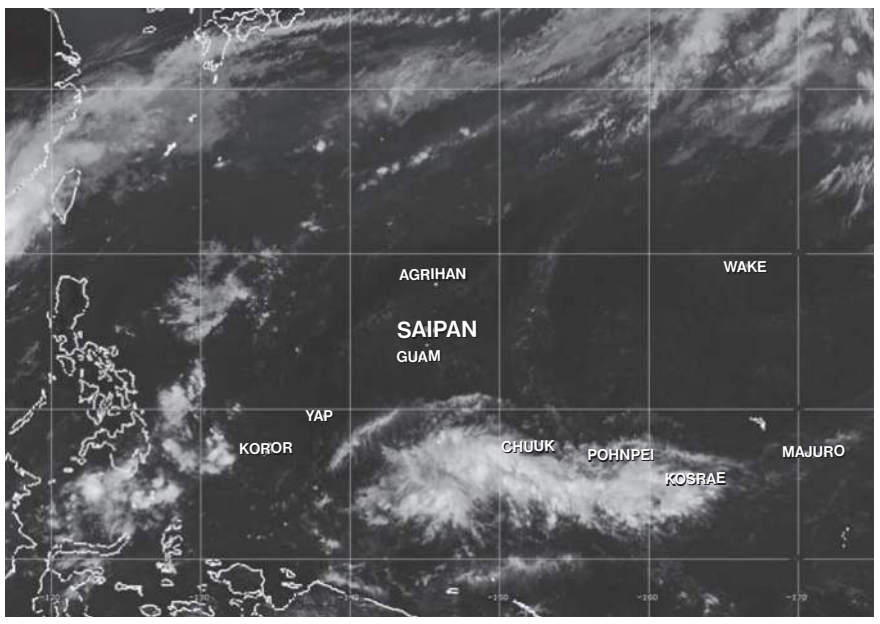
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼71
London	Showers	▲52	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲93	▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
New York	Thundershowers	▲84	▼67
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼57
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲73	▼60
Rome	Showers	▲69	▼57
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲60	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲84	▼57
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent southwest winds are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa within 130 miles of a line from 17N131E to 20N136E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Koror or west of a line from 13N131E to 6N133E. A surface trough curves eastward from 2N142E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 5N144E to end at 3N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Yap and Chuuk states within 190 miles of a line from 5N143E to 5N152E. Trade winds converging east of the circulation are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae states within 160 miles of a line from 5N154E to 4N163E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
6:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:43 PM	3:42 AM
Friday	5:45 PM	4:34 AM
Saturday	6:49 PM	5:31 AM
Sunday	7:53 PM	6:32 AM
Monday	8:54 PM	7:36 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

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$699.95

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$219.95

Essential Home
Airlift Bar Stool
$65.95

Panasonic DVD Home Theater
$199.95

EH Haverhill Faux Granite
5-pc Dining Set
$369.95

Essential Home 7 pc Dining Set
$389.95

Essential Home Metal
and Glass 5 Piece Dining Set
$219.95

Porcelain
Table Lamp,
Assorted Colors
Regular
$19.95

Full Size
Mattress
Regular
Price
$124.95

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$129.95

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$42.95

Cannon Teen
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$29.95

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Gibson Lorenzo 32 Piece Dinnerware Set
$29.95

Gibson Tuxedo Deluxe 20pc Dinnerware Set
$19.95

Oster 10-Speed Blender
$31.95

Proctor Silex 12 Cup Coffee Maker
$18.95

Hamilton Beach Countertop Oven
$119.95

Proctor Silex Steam Iron Regular
$10.95

Essential Home 3-pc Bath Set
$29.95

Culinary Crafts 16 Piece Dinnerware Set Regular
$18.95

Libbey 8pc Glory Glassware
$12.95

Presto Cool Touch Electric Griddle
$39.95

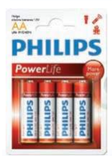
Kenmore Quick Clean Vacuum Cleaner
$69.95

Kenmore Comfort 20 Inch Box Fan
$24.95

Children's Toddler Rocker
$49.95

Student Fabric Chair
$35.95

6 Piece Towel Set, Assorted Colors
$19.95



Phillips 4 Pack Alkaline Batteries AA or AAA
$1.95

Kodak Assorted Size Batteries 4 Pack
$1.95

Adirondack Children's Plastic Chairs, Assorted Colors Regular
$8.95

Us Leisure Adirondack Chair
$29.95

Northwest Territory Folding Beach Chairs **$9.95**

Kenmore 5,200 Btu Air Conditioner
$179.95

Suncast Utility Tall Cabinet
$139.95

Coleman 56 Quart Wheeled Cooler
$39.95

Craftsman 12 Amp Circular Saw
$59.95

Igloo Seat Top 5 Gallon Beverage Dispenser
$25.95

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$29.95

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We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call:
322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Search for Okla. tornado survivors nearly complete

MOORE, Okla. (AP)—Helmeted rescue workers raced Tuesday to complete the search for survivors and the dead in the Oklahoma City suburb where a mammoth tornado destroyed countless homes, cleared lots down to bare red earth and claimed 24 lives, including those of nine children.

Scientists concluded the storm was a rare and extraordinarily powerful type of twister known as an EF5, ranking it at the top of the scale used to measure tornado strength. Those twisters are capable of lifting reinforced buildings off the ground, hurling cars like missiles and stripping trees completely free of bark.

Residents of Moore began returning to their homes a day after the tornado smashed some neighborhoods into jagged wood scraps and gnarled pieces of metal. In place of their houses, many families found only empty lots.

After nearly 24 hours of searching, the fire chief said he was confident there were no more bodies or survivors in the rubble.

"I'm 98 percent sure we're good," Gary Bird said at a news conference with the governor, who had just completed an aerial tour of the disaster zone.

Authorities were so focused on the search effort that they had yet to establish the full scope of damage along the storm's long, ruinous path.

They did not know how many homes were gone or how many families had been displaced. Emergency crews had trouble navigating devastated neighborhoods because there were no street signs left. Some rescuers used smartphones or GPS devices to guide them through areas with no recognizable landmarks.

The death toll was revised downward from 51 after the state medical examiner said some victims may have been counted twice in the confusion. More than 200 people were treated at area hospitals.

By Tuesday afternoon, every damaged home had been searched at least once, Bird said. His goal was to conduct three searches of each building just to be certain there were no more bodies or survivors.

The fire chief was hopeful that could be completed before nightfall, but the work was being hampered by heavy rain. Crews also continued a brick-by-brick search of the rubble of a school that was blown apart with many children inside.

No additional survivors or bodies have been found since Monday night, Bird said.

Survivors emerged with harrowing accounts of the storm's wrath, which many endured as they shielded loved ones.

Chelsie McCumber grabbed her 2-year-old son, Ethan, wrapped him in jackets and covered him with a mattress before they squeezed into a coat closet of their house. McCumber sang to her child when he complained it was getting hot inside the small space.

"I told him we're going to play tent in the closet," she said, beginning to cry.

"I just felt air so I knew the roof was gone," she said Tuesday, standing under the sky where her roof should have been. The home was littered with wet gray insulation and all of their belongings.

"Time just kind of stood still" in the closet, she recalled. "I was kind of holding my breath thinking this isn't the worst of it. I didn't think that was it. I kept waiting for it to get worse."

"When I got out, it was worse than I thought," she said.

Gov. Mary Fallin lamented the loss of life, especially the children who were killed, but she celebrated the town's resilience.

"We will rebuild, and we will regain our strength," Fallin said.

In describing the bird's-eye view of the damage, the governor said many houses were "taken away," leaving "just sticks and bricks, basically. It's hard to tell if there was a structure there or not."

From the air, large stretches of town could be seen where every home had been cut to pieces. Some homes were sucked off their concrete slabs. A pond was filled with piles of wood and an overturned trailer.

Also visible were large patches of red earth where the tornado scoured the land down to the soil. Some tree trunks were still standing, but the winds ripped away their leaves, limbs and bark.

In revising its estimate of the storm's power, the National Weather Service said the tornado had winds of at least 200 mph and was on the ground for 40 minutes.

The agency upgraded the tornado from an EF4 on the enhanced Fujita scale based on reports from a damage-assessment team, said spokeswoman Keli Pirtle. Monday's twister was at least a half-mile wide. It was the nation's first EF5 tornado of 2013.

Other search-and-rescue teams concentrated on Plaza Towers Elementary, where the storm ripped off the roof, knocked down walls and destroyed the playground as students and teachers huddled in hallways and bathrooms.

Seven of the nine dead children were killed at the school, but several students were pulled alive from under a collapsed wall and other heaps of mangled debris. Rescue workers passed the survivors down a human chain of parents and neighborhood volunteers. Parents carried children in their arms to a triage center in the parking lot. Some students looked dazed, others terrified.

Neither Plaza Towers nor another school in Oklahoma City that was not as severely damaged had reinforced storm shelters, or safe rooms, said Albert Ashwood is director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

More than 100 schools across the state do have safe rooms, he said, explaining that it's up to each jurisdiction to set spending priorities.

Ashwood said a shelter would not necessarily have saved more lives at Plaza Towers.

"When you talk about any kind of safety measures ... it's a mitigating measure, it's not an absolute," he told reporters. "There's not a guarantee that everyone will be totally safe."

Officials were still trying to account for a handful of children not found at the school who may have gone home early with their parents, Bird said.

On the streets of Moore, evidence of the storm's fury stretched in every direction: Roofs were torn off houses, exposing metal rods left twisted like pretzels. Cars sat in heaps, crumpled and sprayed with caked-on mud. Insulation and siding was piled up against any walls still standing. Yards were littered with pieces of wood, nails and pieces of electric poles.

President Barack Obama pledged to provide federal help and mourned the death of young children who were killed while "trying to take shelter in the safest place they knew—their school."

The town of Moore "needs to get everything it needs right away," he said Tuesday.

Moore has been one of the fastest-growing suburbs of Oklahoma City, attracting middle-income families and young couples looking for stable schools and affordable housing. The town's population has grown over the last decade as developers built subdivisions for people who wanted to avoid the urban problems and schools of Oklahoma City but couldn't afford pricier Norman, the college town next door.

Many residents commute to jobs in Oklahoma City or to Tinker Air Force Base, about 20 minutes away.

Powerful twisters

While revised estimates of fatalities from the massive tornado that hit Moore, Okla., May 20 suggest that it is not among the deadliest, it is among the most devastating, leveling homes, schools and other buildings along its path.

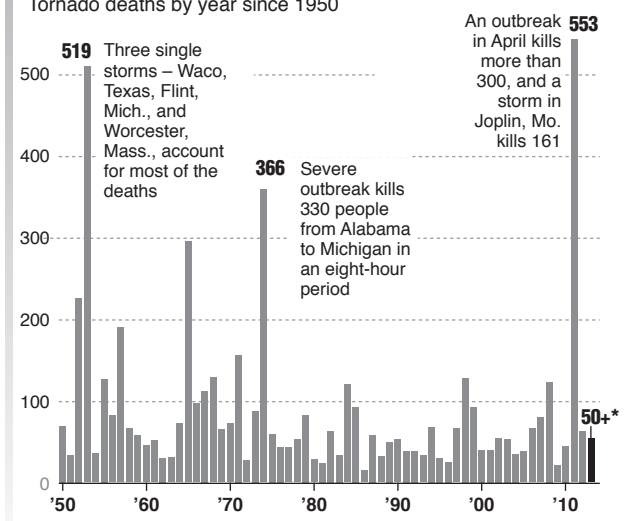
Worst tornadoes on record

By number of deaths

March 18, 1925 Tri-state – Mo., Ill., Ind.	**695**
May 6, 1840 Natchez, Miss.	**317**
May 27, 1896 St. Louis, Mo.	**255**
April 5, 1936 Tupelo, Miss.	**216**
April 6, 1936 Gainesville, Ga.	**203**
April 9, 1947 Woodward, Okla.	**181**
April 24, 1908 Amite, La., Purvis, Miss.	**143**
June 12, 1899 New Richmond, Wis.	**117**
May 22, 2011 Joplin, Mo.	**161**
June 8, 1953 Flint, Mich.	**116**
May 20, 2013 Moore, Okla.	**24***

Deadliest years

Tornado deaths by year since 1950



NOTE: Deaths before 1950 are estimates; deaths since 1950 are based on NOAA data

*As of 1 pm May 21

Source: U.S. National Weather Service Graphic: Pat Carr

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Storm clouds build in the distance beyond tornado-ravaged homes Tuesday, May 21, 2013, in Moore, Okla. AP

Teachers credited with saving the lives of students in Okla.

AP

Teachers carry children away from Briarwood Elementary school after a tornado destroyed the school in south Oklahoma City, Okla, Monday, May 20, 2013.

MOORE, Okla. (AP)—The principal's voice came on over the intercom at Plaza Towers Elementary School: A severe storm was approaching and students were to go to the cafeteria and wait for their parents to pick them up.

But before all of the youngsters could get there, the tornado alarm sounded.

The plan changed quickly.

"All the teachers started screaming into the room and saying, 'Get into the hallway! We don't want you to die!' and stuff like that," said sixth-grader Phaedra Dunn. "We just took off running."

In the moments that followed, some of the children at Plaza Towers Elementary would, in fact, die. At least seven were killed by the twister Monday afternoon. Others would crawl out of the rubble, bloodied and bruised, utterly terrified.

The tornado that devastated this Oklahoma City suburb of 56,000 people destroyed Plaza Towers and also slammed Briarwood Elementary, where all the children appear to have survived. Students and parents recounted stories Tuesday of brave teachers who sheltered their pupils, in some cases by herding them into a closet and a restroom amid the fear and panic.

After the tornado alarm went off, students at Plaza Towers scrambled into the halls. But the halls—some of which were within the view of windows—did not appear safe enough.

Sixth-grader Antonio Clark said a teacher took him and as many other youngsters as possible and shoved them into the three-stall boys' bathroom.

"We were all piled in on each other," the 12-year-old said. Another teacher wrapped her arms around two students and held Antonio's hand.

Twenty seconds later he heard a roar that sounded like a stampede of elephants. His ears popped.

Then it all stopped almost as suddenly as it started. Crouched down, his backpack over his head, Antonio looked up. The skylight and the ceiling were gone, and he was staring up into a cloud filled with debris.

Antonio and a friend were among the first to stand up. They climbed over debris where their classroom had been just moments earlier. Students and teachers were struggling to free themselves from under the bricks, wooden beams and insulation. Some people had bleeding head wounds; blood covered one side of someone's eyeglasses, Antonio said.

"Everybody was crying," Antonio said. "I was crying because I didn't know if my family was OK."

Then Antonio saw his father ride up on a mountain bike, yelling his son's name.

Phaedra survived, too. Her mother rushed to the school just moments before the tornado hit, covered Phaedra's head with a blanket to protect her from hail and ushered her out the door. Phaedra's 10-year-old sister, Jenna, didn't want to budge from the school.

The principal "grabbed her backpack, put it over her head and literally said, 'You're mom's going to open the door. Get out. You're safer with your mom,' and pushed her out the door," said Amy Sharp, the girls' mother.

At Briarwood Elementary, the students also went into the halls. But a third-grade teacher didn't think it looked safe, so she herded some of the children into a closet, said David Wheeler, one of the fathers who tried to rush to the school after the tornado hit.

The teacher shielded Wheeler's 8-year-old son, Gabriel, with her arms and held him down as the tornado collapsed the school roof and starting lifting students upward with a pull so strong that it literally sucked glasses off kids' faces, Wheeler said.

"She saved their lives by putting them in a closet and holding their heads down," Wheeler said.

Gabriel and the teacher—whom Wheeler identified as Julie Simon—had to dig their way out of the rubble. The boy's back was cut and bruised and gravel was embedded in his head, Wheeler said. It took nearly three hours for father and son to be reunited.

Other parents waited even longer, as they drove from one emergency shelter to another in search of their children.

At St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 15-year-old Caitlin Ulrey waited about seven hours before her parents found her. Her high school had not been hit by the tornado. But her nerves were frayed.

"I was starting to panic and shake and have an anxiety attack," Caitlin said.

At Plaza Towers, several students were pulled alive from under a collapsed wall and other heaps of mangled debris. Rescue workers passed the survivors down a human chain of parents and neighborhood volunteers. Parents carried dazed and terrified children in their arms to a triage center in the parking lot.

Hundreds of Oklahoma schools have reinforced tornado shelters, but not the two that were hit on Monday.

Albert Ashwood, director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, said it is up to each jurisdiction to set priorities for which schools get funding for safe rooms. But he said a shelter would not necessarily have saved more lives at Plaza Towers. The tornado was an EF5 twister, the most powerful type, with winds of at least 200 mph.

"When you talk about any kind of safety measures ... it's a mitigating measure, it's not an absolute," Ashwood said. "There's not a guarantee that everyone will be totally safe."

Moore School Superintendent Susan Pierce said teachers and administrators put their well-rehearsed crisis plan into action as the tornado approached. But she suggested there are limits to what people can do in the face of such a powerful storm.

"Safety is our main priority," Pierce said. "We monitored the weather throughout the day and when it was time to shelter, we did just that."

Rating tornadoes' strength

The Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale rates the strength of tornadoes in the U.S. and Canada based on the damage they cause. Implemented in place of the Fujita scale in 2007, the new scale has the same basic design as the original: Six categories from zero to five representing increasing degrees of damage. It was revised to reflect better examinations of tornado damage surveys, so as to align wind speeds more closely with associated storm damage.

	Scale	Wind Speed		Damage
Weak	EF 0	65-85 mph	(105-137 kph)	Light
	EF 1	86-110	(138-178)	Moderate
Strong	EF 2	111-135	(179-218)	Moderate to severe
	EF 3	136-165	(219-266)	Severe
Violent	EF 4	166-200	(267-322)	Devastating
	EF 5	More than 200	(322)	Incredible

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, MCT Photo Service

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ACROSS THE NATION

IRS official to take the 5th at House hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Summoned by Congress, a key figure in the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of conservative groups plans to invoke her constitutional right against self-incrimination and decline to testify at a congressional hearing on Wednesday. Lois Lerner heads the IRS division that singled out conservative groups for additional scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status during the 2010 and 2012 election campaigns. She was subpoenaed to testify Wednesday before the House oversight committee. But in a letter to committee leaders, Lerner's lawyer said she would refuse to testify because of a criminal investigation by the Justice Department.

Jodi Arias asks for life term; jury deliberates

PHOENIX (AP)—Jodi Arias begged jurors Tuesday to give her life in prison, saying she "lacked perspective" when she told a local reporter in an interview that she preferred execution to spending the rest of her days in jail. Standing confidently but at times her voice breaking, Arias told the same eight men and four women who found her guilty of murdering her one-time boyfriend that she planned to use her time in prison to bring about positive changes, including donating her hair to be made into wigs for cancer victims, helping establish prison recycling programs and designing T-shirts to raise money for domestic abuse victims.

Mysterious illness kills 2 in southeast Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A mysterious respiratory illness has left five people hospitalized and two dead in southeast Alabama, state health officials said Tuesday. Seven people have been admitted to hospitals with a fever, cough and shortness of breath in recent weeks, Alabama Department of Public Health spokeswoman Mary McIntyre said in a statement. Two of the seven have died. The Alabama Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control Respiratory Laboratory are analyzing lab tests from all seven patients. McIntyre says officials hope to have preliminary results on the samples back by Wednesday or Thursday morning. The illness was first reported late last week, McIntyre said.

Asia

PH protests Chinese warship's presence

CAVITE, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has protested the presence of a Chinese warship, two surveillance vessels and fishing boats off a shoal occupied by its military in the disputed Spratly Islands, in the latest territorial squabble between the Asian countries, officials said Tuesday.

President Benigno Aquino III warned, meanwhile, that the Philippines is ready to fight back against any threat and announced plans to buy more warships and aircraft for its ill-equipped military, including anti-submarine attack helicopters.

"Our message to the whole world is clear: what belongs to the Philippines belongs to the Philippines," Aquino said in a speech at a naval base in Cavite province south of Manila. "We can fight back and defend ourselves every time somebody will threaten us right in our own home ground."

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said the Philippines denounced the "provocative and illegal presence" of Beijing's ships off Ayungin Shoal in the South China Sea, adding the area is "an integral part of our national territory."

"The Philippines calls on China to respect sovereign rights and jurisdiction," he said.

Chinese diplomats did not immediately react to the protest, which Hernandez said was filed two weeks ago at the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

The shoal, 196 kilometers (122 miles) from the southwestern Philippine province of Palawan, is guarded by a Filipino marine unit based in a rusty warship that ran aground on a coral outcrop several years ago. The shoal lies near Mischief Reef, which the Philippines has claimed but was occupied by China in 1995, sparking intense protests from Manila.

By allowing fishermen in several boats to fish off the shoal, China has violated the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, which grants coastal states exclusive right to exploit marine resources in waters within 370 kilometers (200 nautical miles) of their coast, Hernandez said.

It's the latest territorial rift between the Asian countries, which also are locked in other long-simmering disputes in the South China Sea. Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also claim parts of the Spratlys, a chain of islands, islets and reefs.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said another protest might be lodged if authorities confirm that two ships which chased a Philippine official's ferry boat last week near Ayungin Shoal were Chinese government vessels.

Eugenio Bito-onon, mayor of a chain of Philippine-occupied islands in the Spratlys, said he was traveling with 178 crewmen and companions on a boat to Palawan at night last week when two unidentified ships chased them away from Ayungin.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Kyrgyzstan bent on evicting US air base in 2014

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—Kyrgyzstan's president has reaffirmed that next year the Central Asian nation will evict the U.S. air base that supports military operations in nearby Afghanistan. President Almazbek Atambayev has repeatedly pledged to shut the Manas Transit Center next year, dismissing U.S. assumptions the base would remain in exchange for higher rent. The United States pays $60 million annually for the base. Atambayev said Tuesday the Kyrgyz Cabinet had drafted a bill on the base closure and submitted it to parliament.

Hundreds seek compensation in Japan nuclear crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Hundreds of people living just outside Japan's Fukushima prefecture say they have been denied adequate compensation after the country's 2011 nuclear disaster despite suffering elevated radiation levels. Nearly 700 residents from Hippo district in Miyagi prefecture, just northeast of Fukushima, filed a claim Tuesday with a government arbitration office demanding that they be given the same compensation as residents of Fukushima. The government's basic compensation scheme only covers Fukushima residents, which critics say is an attempt to minimize costs.

Owner: Chinese boat's captain beaten by NKoreans

BEIJING (AP)—Gunmen wearing North Korean military uniforms released a Chinese fishing boat after holding its crew for two weeks, beating up the captain and stealing the vessel's fuel, the boat's owner said. He added that the hijackers did not get the 600,000 yuan ($100,000) ransom they had demanded. The seizure May 5 in what boat owner Yu Xuejun said were Chinese waters was the latest irritant in relations between North Korea and a Chinese government increasingly frustrated with its neighboring ally. One of China's North Korea watchers said rogue border guards were probably responsible, rather than the Pyongyang government itself.

All 28 bodies recovered from Indonesian mine room

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers have recovered all 28 bodies from a collapsed underground room inside the giant U.S.-owned gold and copper mine in Indonesia's province of Papua. Thirty-eight workers were undergoing safety training inside the Big Gossan facility when the roof collapsed May 14. Ten injured miners were rescued. A statement from the mine operator PT Freeport Indonesia said its Emergency Response Team recovered and identified the last victim early Wednesday. Mining operations at the Grasberg mine have been suspended since the accident to respect the victims and concentrate on the recovery effort.

Japan mulls talks with NKorea, surprising allies

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government is looking into re-opening official talks with North Korea to resolve questions over the abductions of Japanese citizens decades ago, raising concerns among allies who fear Tokyo's focus on that issue might weaken efforts to reign in Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Chief Cabinet spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Wednesday that high-level talks with the North are possible if they would lead to a breakthrough on the abductions. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe indicated earlier this week he is open to holding a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un if such a breakthrough could be made.

North Korea sends leader's special envoy to China

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un dispatched a high-profile official and close confidant to travel to China on Wednesday as a special envoy while Beijing is under pressure to rein in its belligerent neighbor. Choe Ryong Hae, a top Workers' Party official and a vice marshal tasked with supervising the North Korean army, departed on a chartered Air Koryo flight with a political and military delegation. Chinese Ambassador Liu Hongcai was among dignitaries on the tarmac for his departure. The trip is the highest-profile visit by a North Korean official to China this year, and it takes place as the new leadership in China shows frustration with North Korea and a greater willingness to work with Washington to harry Pyongyang over its nuclear ambitions.

World

Syria opposition signals tough line on peace talks with Assad

BEIRUT (AP)—Despite recent rebel setbacks in Syria's civil war, the main opposition bloc signaled a tough line Tuesday on attending possible peace talks with President Bashar Assad's regime.

Two senior members of the Syrian National Coalition said the group first wants ironclad guarantees of Assad's departure as part of any transition deal and more weapons for rebel fighters. The group's final position is to be hashed out in a three-day meeting of its General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, later this week.

Tuesday's comments highlighted the wide gaps between many in the Syrian opposition and the regime just weeks before the U.S. and Russia hope to bring the sides together at an international conference in Geneva.

Over the weekend, Assad also presented a hard line, challenging the idea of transition talks and saying he won't step down before elections are held. Hours after those comments, his troops launched an offensive against a rebel-held town in western Syria, the latest in a series of military gains by the regime.

"There are many obstacles facing the conference," Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria and lead organizer of the gathering, acknowledged Tuesday, after meeting with the Arab League chief in Cairo.

The pope and the devil: Is Francis an exorcist?

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis' fascination with the devil took on remarkable new twists Tuesday, with a well-known exorcist insisting Francis helped "liberate" a Mexican man possessed by four different demons despite the Vatican's insistence that no such papal exorcism took place.

AP

In this image made from video provided by APTN, Pope Francis lays his hands on the head of a young man on Sunday, May 19, 2013, after celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Square.

The case concerns a 43-year-old husband and father who traveled to Rome from Mexico to attend Francis' Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square. At the end of the Mass, Francis blessed several wheelchair-bound faithful as he always does, including a man possessed by the devil, according to the priest who brought him, the Rev. Juan Rivas.

Francis laid his hands on the man's head and recited a prayer. The man heaved deeply a half-dozen times, shook, then slumped in his wheelchair.

The images, broadcast worldwide, prompted the television station of the Italian bishops' conference to declare that according to several exorcists, there was "no doubt" that Francis either performed an exorcism or a simpler prayer to free the man from the devil.

The Vatican was more cautious. In a statement Tuesday, it said Francis "didn't intend to perform any exorcism. But as he often does for the sick or suffering, he simply intended to pray for someone who was suffering who was presented to him."

The Rev. Gabriele Amorth, a leading exorcist for the diocese of Rome, said he performed a lengthy exorcism of his own on the man Tuesday morning and ascertained he was possessed by four separate demons. The case was related to the legalization of abortion in Mexico City, he said.

Amorth told RAI state radio that even a short prayer, without the full rite of exorcism being performed, is in itself a type of exorcism.

"That was a true exorcism," he said of Francis' prayer. "Exorcisms aren't just done according to the rules of the ritual." Rivas took the Vatican line, saying it was no exorcism but that Francis merely said a prayer to free the man from the devil.

"Since no one heard what he said, including me who was right there, you can say he did a prayer for liberation but nothing more," Rivas wrote on his Facebook page, which was confirmed by his religious order, the Legionaries of Christ. Fueling the speculation that Francis did indeed perform an exorcism is his frequent reference to Satan in his homilies—as well as an apparent surge in demand for exorcisms among the faithful despite the irreverent treatment the rite often receives from Hollywood.

Who can forget the green vomit and the spinning head of the possessed girl in the 1973 cult classic "The Exorcist"?

In his very first homily as pope on March 14, Francis warned cardinals gathered in the Sistine Chapel the day after he was elected that "he who doesn't pray to the Lord prays to the devil."

Suicide at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Some 1,500 visitors were cleared out of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris after a man put a letter on the altar of the 850-year-old monument Tuesday, pulled out a gun and shot himself in the head.

It's the first suicide in decades at the landmark site, Monsignor Patrick Jacquin, the cathedral's rector, told The Associated Press.

"It's unfortunate, it's dramatic, it's shocking," Jacquin said. The motives for the suicide, and the contents of the man's letter, were unclear.

The Paris prosecutor's office identified the man as 78-year-old Dominique Venner.

Venner's blog describes him as a historian and essayist, and includes description of his involvement in the campaign against France's new law authorizing gay marriage. In some posts he criticizes "massive immigration" and what he describes as encroaching Islam; others include historical analysis of revolution or American-European relations.

Environment

Beach litter mars US—and world's—coastlines

By ERIKA BOLSTAD
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—It's a beach bummer. Shorelines worldwide are clogged with trash, so much so that during their annual cleanup last year, volunteers with the Ocean Conservancy picked up refuse that weighed as much as 10 Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

Cigarettes, food packaging and plastic bottles topped the list from the 2012 cleanup. Debris from the Japanese tsunami and Hurricane Sandy also marred some U.S. beaches, the Ocean Conservancy, a non-profit group that works on ocean protection, reported Monday. Volunteers turned up some weird stuff, too: mattresses, candles, toothbrushes and sports balls.

More than 550,000 people picked up in excess of 10 million pounds of trash along 17,719 miles of international coastlines in September during the Ocean Conservancy's annual cleanup. Billed as the largest ocean-related volunteer effort in the world, the event spotlights just what sort of ocean trash washes up on beaches around the world and what can be done to scale back the refuse.

A LOT OF TRASH

The amount of refuse, in pounds, collected during a September 2012 coastal cleanup by Ocean Conservancy volunteers in select states:
Alaska: 3,575
Washington: 3,152
California: 305,504
Texas: 305,562
Mississippi: 54,680
Florida: 452,913
Georgia: 369,104
South Carolina: 19,170
North Carolina: 409,189

Source: Ocean Conservancy

Every piece of trash affects the health of the ocean and as a result the economy, the environment and animal health, said Nicholas Mallos, Ocean Conservancy's marine debris specialist and a conservation biologist. Plastic debris has two risks, he said. There's an entrapment or strangulation risk to wildlife. But the longer plastics are in the ocean, the more likely they are to absorb other toxins, too.

"Plastics leach chemicals into the environment, but plastics also absorb chemicals from the environment," he said. "And certainly when animals—fish or other marine organisms—ingest those plastics, there's some accumulation of those toxins in their systems and as they move up the food chain."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
A staff of Shirley's Restaurant and Coffee Shop participates in a beach cleanup in Susupe. Volunteers with the Ocean Conservancy picked up garbage that weighed as much as 10 Boeing 747 jumbo jets in 2012.

There's also a real cleanup cost to coastal communities. In tourism-dependent beachfront destinations such as Myrtle Beach, S.C., having a pristine appearance is crucial to attracting visitors. In the summer months, the city mushrooms from 27,000 year-round residents to the biggest city in South Carolina.

Upward of 14 million tourists visit each year, and they're accompanied by tons of trash, said Mark Kruea, a spokesman for the city. Myrtle Beach spends about $1.1 million annually on trash pickup, which includes raking the beach for trash every morning.

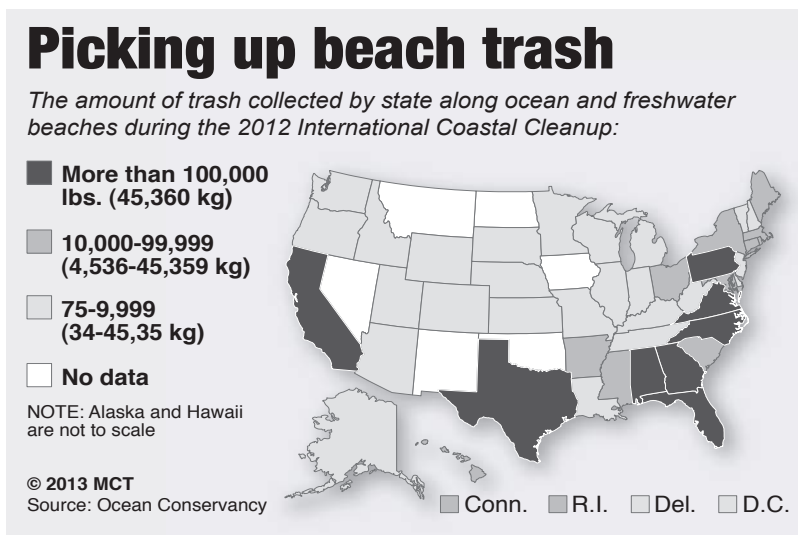
"Because we welcome a lot of people, we want to make sure that we look good," he said. "As a result, we pick up a lot of trash."

There's also been a greater demand for recycling facilities in recent years, Kruea said. The city has had visitors from out of state say they've taken their crushed cans and cardboard home with them, because recycling isn't readily accessible at some vacation rentals. Recently, the city has been testing the use of recycling bins along a seven-block stretch of the beach.

Beaches in places like Alaska, with more than 44,000 miles of coastline, and much of it remote, face a separate challenge. Currents and winter storms bring significant debris to the state each year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There, the problem is more likely to be abandoned fishing equipment.

It's not enough just to pick up the trash, Mallos said. The Ocean Conservancy would like people to focus next on producing less waste before it even makes its way into the oceans. That means taking simple steps such as avoiding single-use products and embracing reusable water bottles, coffee mugs and grocery bags.

"By getting out there and removing everyday forms of trash from our beaches, and really systematically re-evaluating our daily lives and the choices we make," Mallos said, "we can keep trash from the beaches and ensure that in the face of future natural disasters, we have a more resilient ocean ecosystem."


Picking up beach trash
The amount of trash collected by state along ocean and freshwater beaches during the 2012 International Coastal Cleanup:
More than 100,000 lbs. (45,360 kg)
10,000-99,999 (4,536-45,359 kg)
75-9,999 (34-45,35 kg)
No data
NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale
© 2013 MCT
Source: Ocean Conservancy
Conn.
R.I.
Del.
D.C.

Climate change melting Mount Everest glaciers

By GEOFFREY MOHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A warming climate is melting the glaciers of Mount Everest, shrinking the frozen cloak of Earth's highest peak by 13 percent in the last 50 years, researchers have found.

Rocks and natural debris previously covered by snow are appearing now as the snow line has retreated 590 feet, according to Sudeep Thakuri, a University of Milan scientist who led the research.

The pessimistic view of Earth's tallest peak was presented during a meeting Tuesday of the American Geophysical Union in Cancun, Mexico.

Researchers said they believe the observed changes could be due to human-generated greenhouse gases altering global climate, although their research has not established a firm connection.

The team reconstructed the glacial history of the area using satellite imagery and topographic maps of Everest and the surrounding 713-square-mile Sagarmatha National Park. Their statistical analysis shows that the majority of the glaciers in the national park are retreating at an increasing rate, Thakuri said.

Small glaciers of less than a square kilometer (about 247 acres), are vanishing fastest, registering a 43 percent decline in surface area since the 1960s.

Average temperatures have risen about 1 degree Fahrenheit since 1992, according data from the Nepal Climate Observatory stations and Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the researchers found. Since 1992, precipitation has declined nearly 4 inches during the pre-monsoon and winter months, they found.

"The Himalayan glaciers and ice caps are considered a water tower for Asia since they store and supply water downstream during the dry season," said Thakuri. "Downstream populations are dependent on the melt water for agriculture, drinking and power production."

The topic of glacial melt in the Himalayas has been controversial. Initial reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted glaciers in the region would disappear by 2035. Subsequent analysis by the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellite mission showed that the melt was one-tenth the reported rate, and that some areas were experiencing growth, particularly in the Tibetan plateau.

Research published last year, however, showed that glaciers have been retreating over a 30-year period on the Tibetan plateau. It also showed that areas that depend on snow during regional monsoon seasons are particularly vulnerable to small rises in temperature.

The plateau is of concern because it is the ultimate source of drinking and irrigation water for more than 1 billion people in Asia.

DO YOUR PART

Searching for the safest sunscreen

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

One of the best parts of the summer for me is hitting the lake with family and friends. I love relaxing on the water and feeling the sun on my skin. What I don't love is jumping through hurdles to find the safest sunscreen among all the different varieties on store shelves. This year though, sunscreen manufacturers are required to make a few important changes to their sunscreen labels. While these changes will help you Do Your Part to make the healthiest sunscreen choice for your family, there's still plenty of homework for you.

Let's start with the label changes. Last year, the Federal Drug Administration informed the makers of sunscreen that by June, some of the claims on their packaging needed to be revised. However, while you will see many changes now, that deadline has recently been pushed back to December because of sunscreen shortage concerns. The new guidelines will force manufacturers to stop claiming that their sunscreen is sweatproof or waterproof. That's because those claims influenced people's decisions to not reapply sunscreen after getting in the water. Also, products labeled "Broad Spectrum" must meet the FDA's standards for protecting against both types of ultraviolet rays, UVA and UVB. Anti-aging products will also have to be "Broad Spectrum" with a Sun Protection Factor, or SPF of at least 15.

Now, while these changes to the outside of the sunscreen package will help consumers, the FDA is not requiring changes to deal with the potentially dangerous ingredients found inside the bottle and that's what worries me the most. If you look at the label of most sunscreens, you'll see oxybenzone listed as an active ingredient. Here's the problem: Once absorbed into the skin, oxybenzone can be easily converted to free radicals when exposed to sunlight. Those free radicals in our skin can lead to everything from wrinkles to cancer.

Your best option is to find sunscreen without oxybenzone. Mineral-based sunscreen containing zinc oxide and titanium dioxide provide powerful protection without the health concerns. However, finding these safer sunscreens takes a little work. When I went shopping for sunscreen a few weeks ago, I checked dozens of bottles before I found one without oxybenzone. And, one word of warning, don't be tempted by the new spray and powder sunscreen options. As you apply, the particles can easily get into your lungs.

So, how can you find the right sunscreen for you? The Environmental Working Group makes it easy at www.ewg.org. Each year they update their database where you can search by specific brand name to see how it rates. You can even download a free app to make it super simple to check specific sunscreen while you're shopping.

A little extra work will help you Do Your Part to keep your family safe in the hot summer sun.

Terri Bennett is a national speaker, eco-expert, and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living *available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions or speaker requests to terri@doyourpart.com.*

Life & Style

Microsoft touts Xbox One as all-in-1 entertainment

REDMOND, Washington (AP)—Microsoft thinks it has the one.

The company unveiled the Xbox One, an entertainment console that wants to be the one system households will need for games, television, movies and other entertainment. It will go on sale later this year, for an undisclosed price.

For the past two years, Microsoft has led the gaming industry in console sales with the Xbox 360. But it's been eight years since that machine came out, and Microsoft is the last of the three major console makers to unveil a new system. In those eight years, Apple launched the iPhone and the iPad, "FarmVille" rose and fell and tablets began to threaten desktop computers, changing how people interact with games and beyond.

Now, the stakes are high as Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo are all using their latest machines to not only draw gamers but also command the living room. The goal is to extend their reach beyond loyal legions of hardcore gamers and to become as important to our lives at home as smartphones have become to our lives on the go.

Don Mattrick, Microsoft's president of interactive entertainment business, said the company has spent the past four years working on the "all-in-one home entertainment system."

At an hour-long presentation at the company's Redmond, Washington, headquarters on Tuesday, Microsoft executives used voice controls to seamlessly switch back and forth between watching live TV, listening to music, playing a movie and browsing the Internet—all while running apps for fantasy football and Skype chats. It showed how users could watch live sports on TV while getting updates on their fantasy leagues on a split screen.

AP

Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox One entertainment and gaming console system is on display after its unveiling Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at an event in Redmond, Wash.

"It really extends the home entertainment experience," Gartner analyst Brian Blau said.

He said the console seems to appeal to "more than just a core gamer in the family" and should be of interest to all types of audiences, from sports players to TV viewers to those who are "social and want to share things."

Xbox One is the third entry in the latest round of the "console wars." It follows Nintendo Co.'s launch of the Wii U in November and Sony Corp.'s tease in February for the upcoming PlayStation 4. Each of the next-generation consoles have shifted away from simply serving as gaming machines, as they incorporate streaming media apps and social networking features.

With the Xbox One, people will be able to connect their cable or satellite set-top box and watch TV through the game machine. The Xbox One has its own guide and lets people change channels by voice command.

Senior Vice President Yusuf Mehdi demonstrated how the console switched quickly between channels after saying show names such as "Mary and Martha" or commands like "watch MTV." His voice command of "What's on HBO?" brought up the channel guide for HBO.

"No more memorizing channels or hunting for the remote control," Mehdi said.

The interface for the TV goes well beyond the functionality in the Wii U, which still requires users to press buttons to change the input source on the TV. Xbox One seamlessly switched between games, movies and TV shows with a single voice command.

"You can switch to your game like it's a TV channel flip," said Marc Whitten, Microsoft's chief product officer of interactive entertainment business. He called it a "lag-free instant experience."

Microsoft also unveiled a new version of its camera-based Kinect system with better motion and voice detection, including the ability to read faces and tell whether you're smiling or not. The Kinect will be required for Xbox One to work. The company also introduced a more ergonomic Xbox controller, with new buttons and a slightly different layout from the Xbox 360 controller. The new console will also add the ability to play Blu-ray discs, matching what Sony has in its older PlayStation 3.

Among the games previewed for Xbox One were the military shooter "Call of Duty: Ghosts" from Activision Blizzard Inc., the soccer extravaganza "FIFA 14" from Electronic Arts Inc. and the racing simulator "Forza Motorsport 5" and time bender "Quantum Break," both from Microsoft Game Studios. Microsoft said more games will be shown at next month's E3 video game conference in Los Angeles.

Library honors Carole King with US pop music prize

WASHINGTON (AP)—Carole King isn't done with music—not yet anyway.

The 71-year-old singer-songwriter known for such hits as "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" and "You've Got A Friend" was awarded the nation's highest prize for popular music in a concert Tuesday. She received the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song at the Library of Congress and will be honored Wednesday by President Barack Obama at the White House

King told The Associated Press it's a tremendous honor to be recognized at such an historic place with a place in history that she never would have expected. King is the first woman to receive the Gershwin Prize. Previous honorees include Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder and Paul Simon.

"It is yet another of the many important messages to young women that women matter, women make a difference," King said. "That popular music is recognized by the Library of Congress as being worthy of a place in history is especially significant to me."

King

A concert in King's honor Wednesday at the White House will include performances by Gloria Estefan, Billy Joel, Jesse McCartney, Emeli Sande, James Taylor and Trisha Yearwood. It will be broadcast May 28 on PBS.

Last year, King hinted that she would like to retire from music as her memoir, "A Natural Woman," began to sell. But since then, she's gone on tour in Australia and plans to sing at a benefit concert to support victims of the Boston Marathon bombings. Now she plans to introduce a new song during the Gershwin Prize concert that she wrote with Hal David, entitled "I Believe in Loving You." She told the AP she plans to release it as a single next month as a tribute to David, who won the prize and died last year.

"I'm hoping that this will become a song that people will want to play at their weddings," she said. "It's so romantic. Hal is such a great writer, and his words live on forever."

King said she's staying too busy to retire.

This month she received an honorary doctorate from the Berklee College of Music along with Willie Nelson and Annie Lennox. There's even a Broadway musical in the works based on King's life.

"I still feel that it would be lovely to retire, but that time is not yet here apparently," she said.

King got her start in music from the time she could barely reach the piano growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., constantly asking her mother, "what's that note?"

Man pleads guilty in Picasso vandalism case in US

HOUSTON (AP)—A man accused of vandalizing a 1929 Pablo Picasso painting in a Texas museum—an act that was caught on cellphone video—agreed Tuesday to a two-year prison term as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. His lawyer called his act "an artistic statement."

Landeros

Uriel Landeros had faced felony graffiti and criminal mischief charges accusing him of spray-painting "Woman in a Red Armchair" with an image of a bullfighter, a bull and the word "conquista," the Spanish word for conquest.

Landeros, a 22-year-old U.S. citizen, fled to Mexico after the incident. He surrendered to authorities at the U.S.-Mexico border in January.

Emily Detoto, Landeros' attorney, said her client agreed to plead guilty to the graffiti charge in exchange for a minimal prison sentence. The other charge was dropped. Landeros had faced up to 10 years in prison.

The painting was damaged June 13, and a bystander captured the act in a 24-second video that was posted on YouTube.

Detoto said Landeros wanted the criminal mischief charge dismissed because he believed "what he did to the painting was not criminal mischief, it was an artistic statement, an expression, much like graffiti art is."

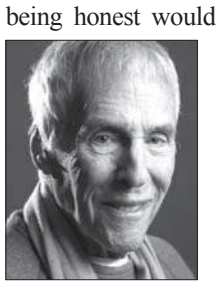
Detoto said there is a good chance her client could be quickly paroled. He will get credit for the five months in jail he's already served, and she noted the crime wasn't violent.

Menil Collection spokesman Vance Muse said the painting's restoration "is close to completion."

It was not the first time one of Picasso's works has been vandalized. In 1999, an escaped mental patient in Amsterdam cut a hole in his "Woman Nude Before Garden," a 1956 painting.

Burt Bacharach opens up on daughter's suicide

NEW YORK (AP)—Burt Bacharach knew writing a memoir would be emotional—not because of his never-heard backstage tales or his tumultuous marriages. He knew that being honest would force him to come to terms with the death of his daughter.



Bacharach

"It was very tough because I had to revisit what that period was and go deeper into it," he said of his daughter Nikki's premature birth, years of emotional issues, and eventual suicide at the age of 40.

The 84-year-old award-winning music composer of such classics as "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," the Oscar-winning "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," and The Carpenters' "(They Long to Be) Close to You," understood that baring his deep, dark secrets was essential to his recently released autobiography, "Anyone Who Had a Heart: My Life and Music" (Harper).

The idea for a memoir came long before Nikki's death in 2007. Bacharach had Nikki with former wife Angie Dickinson, best known for her role on the seventies drama, "Police Woman."

"(Nikki) was one-pound, 10 ounces at birth, you should know the deck is stacked against you then," Bacharach said.

According to Bacharach, she grew up with emotional issues, which he later found out was an undiagnosed case of Asperger's syndrome (the autism spectrum disorder is a relatively new diagnosis.)

"Nobody said she's got Asperger's or she's got autism. (They said) she's just got behavior things," he said.

But after suffering for so long, he never imagined she would actually kill herself.

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HANGOVER 3, THE [CC] (R) (405 PM) 705 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 6 [CC] (PG-13) 1000 PM
THE GREAT GATSBY [CC] (PG-13) (415 PM)
THE GREAT GATSBY 3D [CC] (PG-13) 715 PM
IRON MAN 3 3D [CC] (PG-13) (400 PM) 700 PM
IRON MAN 3 [CC] (PG-13) (425 PM)
OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13) (430 PM)

www.REGmovies.com

Singer Kellie Pickler named new 'Dancing' champ

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kellie Pickler came into the final "Dancing With the Stars" episode in second place but finished in first.

The 26-year-old country singer won the show's mirror ball trophy Tuesday.

"This is amazing!" she beamed to her professional partner, Derek Hough.

The pair earned two sets of perfect scores Monday night and another on Tuesday. Judges' scores combined with viewer votes determine the winner.

Because there were problems with voting on the ABC website during Monday's East Coast broadcast, host Tom Bergeron said Tuesday those votes weren't counted. Only votes cast by phone, text and Facebook factored into the final count.

Teen Disney Channel star Zendaya danced perfectly during the final two episodes, collecting the most points from the judges, but she fell short of the title.

AP

This May 13, 2013 photo released by ABC shows country singer Kellie Pickler and her partner Derek Hough performing on the celebrity dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles.

"I'm very proud and I'm very happy," the 16-year-old said after the results were read. "And I get to leave here with an amazing experience."

Football pro Jacoby Jones finished in third place. Fellow finalist Alexandra Raisman was axed at the beginning of Tuesday's episode.

"This has been the best experience of my life," the gold medalist said. "My whole life, all I've ever known has been gymnastics, so to try something new has been amazing."

The two-hour finale featured the return of the season's already-eliminated contestants: comedians Andy Dick and D.L. Hugely, Olympian Dorothy Hamill, actor Ingo Rademacher, reality stars Lisa Vanderpump and Sean Lowe, singer Wynonna Judd and boxer Victor Ortiz.

Judd opted to sing rather than dance on the final episode, while Hamill celebrated another chance to hit the ballroom floor.

The Olympic skater, who said she was motivated to join the show after watching fellow skater Kristi Yamaguchi, had to withdraw from the competition early in the season because of an injury.

Hamill danced again Tuesday, and Yamaguchi joined her.

Harry Potter book with author notes sold for $228K

LONDON (AP)—For fans of the boy wizard, this could be the most coveted copy of all the "Harry Potter" books in the world.

A first edition copy of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" that contains author J.K. Rowling's notes and original illustrations fetched 150,000 pounds ($228,000) at a London auction on Tuesday.

Sotheby's said the work, offered as part of a charity book sale jointly organized with the English PEN writers' association, was sold to an anonymous bidder by telephone.

Rowling peppered the book with many personal annotations, including editorial decisions, comments on the process of writing and a note on how she came to create the game of Quidditch.

She also drew about two dozen illustrations in the copy, including a sleeping baby Harry on a door step and an Albus Dumbledore Chocolate Frog card.

As part of the fundraising event, Rowling and dozens of other best-selling authors were asked to "scribble second thoughts, marginalia or drawings" on a first-edition copy of one of their books.

A copy of Roald Dahl's best-selling children's book "Matilda" containing new drawings by illustrator Quentin Blake fetched 30,000 pounds ($45,500), while an annotated copy of Kazuo Ishiguro's acclaimed novel "The Remains of the Day" was sold for 18,000 pounds ($27,300).

Other participating authors in the charity sale included Ian McEwan, Seamus Heaney, Lionel Shriver and Yann Martel.

AP

Sotheby's director of the department of printed books and manuscripts Dr Philip Errington poses for photographers by holding a first edition copy of the first Harry Potter book "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" containing annotations and illustrations by author J.K. Rowling on top of a stack of other annotated first edition books featuring at auction, during a photocall organized for the media at the auction house's premises in London, Monday, May 20, 2013.

In all, the sale raised a total of 439,200 pounds ($666,310).

Aretha Franklin taking June off, postponing shows

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aretha Franklin is taking off the month of June.

A spokesman for the 71-year-old singer says Franklin will reschedule two shows and resume her touring schedule in July.

Publicist David Brokaw provided no other details Tuesday.

Franklin announced earlier this month that she would cancel scheduled performances in Chicago and Connecticut this week to undergo medical treatment. She did not specify what type of treatment she was receiving.

Franklin appeared on the season finale of "American Idol" last week via satellite, singing a medley of her hits with the show's female finalists.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Nick Jonas, Giuliana Rancic to host Miss USA

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Donald Trump's Miss USA pageant will be hosted by a Jonas brother and an E! News personality. Pageant officials announced Tuesday that Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers pop act and Giuliana Rancic, co-anchor of "E! News," will host the June 16 pageant. The winner of the 62nd annual pageant in Las Vegas goes on to compete in the Miss Universe pageant. Jonas' brother Joe Jonas was among the judges panel last year, and Rancic hosted. Contestants will be judged in swimsuit, evening gown and interview categories. The show will also feature a performance by the Jonas Brothers.

Christian singer Patty to deliver Indy 500 anthem

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Christian music singer Sandi Patty will perform the national anthem at Sunday's Indianapolis 500 for a record sixth time. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway announced Patty's selection Tuesday. Patty is a five-time Grammy Award winner and longtime resident of Anderson, Ind. She last sang the national anthem at the 500 in 1992. She also performed it in 1987, 1988, 1990 and 1991. Patty says it's a "thrill" to return to Indiana and participate in the event that "showcases Indianapolis as one of the best cities in the world." Patty has sold more than 11 million albums and is the most decorated female vocalist in contemporary Christian music.

Rapper Chief Keef arrested at hotel near Atlanta

DUNWOODY, Ga. (AP)—Police in suburban Atlanta say rapper Chief Keef, whose name is Keith Cozart, has been arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Dunwoody police spokesman Timothy Fecht says officers arrested Cozart after responding to a call about illegal drug activity at the Le Méridien hotel just north of Atlanta Monday afternoon. Fecht says officers saw smoke and smelled marijuana wafting from a room. It wasn't immediately clear what Cozart was doing in Georgia. Representatives at his booking agency said they didn't have contact info for an attorney for the 17-year-old Chicago native and didn't know much about the incident. Cozart was arrested in January and spent about two months in juvenile detention for violating probation on a weapons conviction. He had received probation for pointing a gun at police in 2012.

Money spent to keep kids from smoking is no bribe

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was surprised to see you equate a concerned grandmother's creative solution to smoking with bribery in your Feb. 14 column. The word "bribe" has a negative connotation. What the grandmother did was offer an incentive, NOT a bribe, that will benefit her grandchildren in the long run. I think the woman should be congratulated.

Now for a disclaimer: When my daughter was 14, I came up with the same idea in the form of a wager. I bet her that if she could resist peer pressure and not become a smoker by the time she was 21, I would buy her the dress of her dreams. To my delight, she won the bet. By then she was studying to become a marine biologist, so instead of a dress, the money went toward a wetsuit.

At 43, she's still a nonsmoker and she has now made that same bet with her children. It's the best money I ever spent.

RETIRED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

DEAR R.C.S.W.: Oh me, oh my, did I get clobbered for my response to that letter. Out of the hundreds of letters and emails received, only ONE person agreed with me. The rest were smokin' mad. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In my many years as a school psychologist, I have counseled hundreds of parents and teachers about dealing with behavioral issues in children. I often make the distinction between a "bribe" and a "reward" by describing a bribe as something you give someone to do something dishonest, while a reward is given for doing something commendable. What she did was reward their good choice in not developing a potentially fatal habit.

OLD-SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

DEAR ABBY: When you give someone money for something that has already been completed, it's a paycheck and not a bribe. It was pointed out to me that few of us would continue to go to work if we weren't paid for it, and those grandchildren were being paid for "work" that was already completed. It's an important distinction that may be helpful for parents and other adults to understand.

FORMER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your answer! What that grandmother did was REWARD her grandchildren, not bribe them. A lot of pressure is put on teens, and it takes considerable willpower and maturity to avoid some of these temptations.

At 16 or 17, it is hard for them to imagine being over 30, and none of them can imagine being 60 or 70 with lung disease. Hooray for grandparents who can help them avoid adopting a life-threatening habit in any way they can!

GRANDMOTHER IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY: I told my son I would give him $1,000 at the age of 21 if he didn't smoke. It wasn't bribery. It was a great tool to combat peer pressure. Whenever he was offered a cigarette, he could simply say he had a better offer. Not only did it work, the other kids were envious.

MICHIGAN MOM

DEAR ABBY: My pre-teen daughter was devastated when her maternal grandfather died from the effects of emphysema. In spite of it, she took up smoking in her teens. We threatened her, grounded her, took away privileges, even tried guilt trips. Nothing worked. Her choice to smoke was influenced by her peer group.

I would have mortgaged our home, sold our possessions and borrowed money from the bank if I thought I could have altered her choice by bribing her. By the way, she has been diagnosed with pre-cancerous cells, but even this hasn't been enough to cause her to quit.

WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING

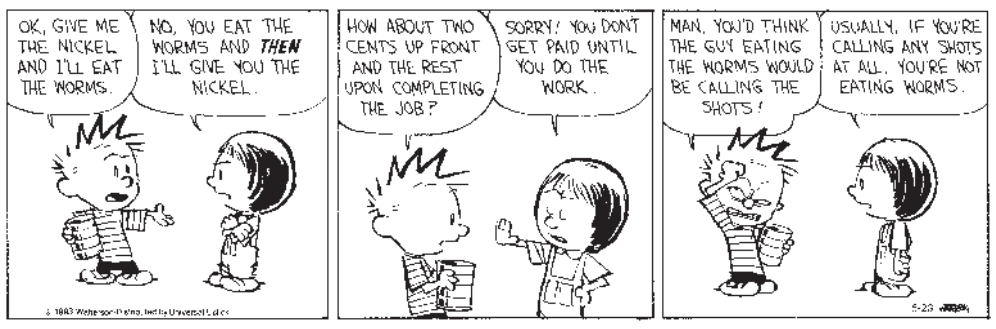
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK, GIVE ME THE NICKEL AND I'LL EAT THE WORMS.
NO, YOU EAT THE WORMS AND THEN I'LL GIVE YOU THE NICKEL.
HOW ABOUT TWO CENTS UP FRONT AND THE REST UPON COMPLETING THE JOB?
SORRY! YOU DON'T GET PAID UNTIL YOU DO THE WORK.
MAN, YOU'D THINK THE GUY EATING THE WORMS WOULD BE CALLING THE SHOTS!
USUALLY, IF YOU'RE CALLING ANY SHOTS AT ALL, YOU'RE NOT EATING WORMS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Comes together
5 Sail support
9 Drenched
12 Met melody
13 From the beginning
14 Wall crawler
15 Voles
17 Back talk
18 Man's hat style
19 Confound
21 First word of "America"
22 Gotham City super-villain
24 Renown
27 Standard
28 Linger
31 Chicken-king link
32 Recede
33 Mongrel
34 Two-wheeler
36 Ph. bk. listings
37 Relin-quish
38 Occur-rence
40 Letter after lambda
41 Discus-sion group
43 Insect with pincers
47 Hawaiian neckpiece
48 Crockett and Tubbs' show
51 Tolkien ogre
52 Beige
53 North Sea feeder
54 Buck's mate
55 Deli loaves
56 Reps.' rivals

DOWN
1 Handled hook
2 Great Lake
3 Told a whopper
4 Biblical dancer
5 One of the Three Bears
6 Black-bird
7 Moment
8 Make slight alter-ations
9 Grain also called water oats
10 Satan's forte
11 Work at the keyboard
16 Parched
20 Society newbie
22 Frilly blouse accessory
23 Spheres
24 "Great!"
25 Clay, today
26 "Stop fighting"
27 Teller's partner
29 Flop
30 Before
35 Leading lady?
37 Not straight
39 "Wabbit" hunter
40 — tai
41 Walk wearily
42 Prefix re planes
43 Flightless flock
44 — E. Coyote
45 Warhead weapon, briefly
46 The Bee —
49 Unfriendly
50 Exist

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	R	G	S	■	C	A	B	■	G	A	D	S
G	O	O	N	■	O	R	R	■	O	M	I	T
A	M	B	I	E	N	C	E	■	A	B	L	Y
D	E	I	F	I	C	■	A	W	H	I	L	E
■	■	■	F	R	O	■	D	I	E	T	■	■
B	A	A	■	E	H	R	■	N	A	I	L	S
A	L	M	A	■	D	I	S	■	D	O	I	T
D	E	B	T	S	■	C	T	O	■	N	E	D
■	■	■	U	F	O	S	■	U	M	A	■	■
A	S	S	I	S	T	■	B	A	R	E	S	T
B	O	H	R	■	A	M	B	R	O	S	I	A
B	Y	E	S	■	V	I	L	■	M	A	L	T
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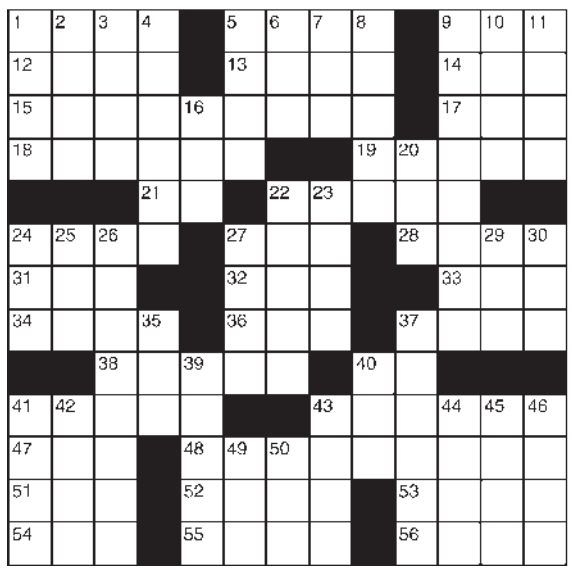
Yesterday's answer 5-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Monaco, 37; Jewel, 39; Drew Carey, 55; Joan Collins, 80

Happy Birthday: Take what you do seriously, whether it is a job, your own business, your health, wealth or personal life. It's important to see the possibilities and strive to complete whatever you start. Doors will open to greater opportunity if you do your part. Personal changes will add to your charm, appearance and boost your confidence. Your numbers are 2, 16, 24, 32, 38, 41, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A change in the way you view life and the type of people you want to hang out with will result in personal experimentation, not to mention a life lesson. Proceed with caution and question whatever appears false. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't react quickly if someone asks you for something. Take care of your own interests first. Gather all the information you can and offer solutions that will not stand in the way of your plans. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Lead with your ideas and present what you want to do. Your insight, charm and vision will attract the attention of someone you least expect. Support will be offered along with demands that must be met. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Try something different or get involved in an event or activity that is unique or will bring you in contact with people from different backgrounds. Let your intuition guide you and your talents entice extraordinary people to help you advance. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Give and take will help you change your life. Don't let the demands someone tries to put on you stand in your way. A change of location or finding a lifestyle that suits your skills, talents or personality better should be your goal. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Commence doing what you plan to do instead of just talking about it. Don't allow anyone to stand between you and your goals. A love interest is likely to have ulterior motives. Avoid someone demonstrating unpredictable behavior. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Live in the moment. Have some fun, and most of all enjoy the people you are with. Love is highlighted, and doing things that boost your confidence or make you feel good about the way you look should be on your agenda. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put a little force behind what you want and you will gain respect from your friends and colleagues. Look at your costs and your budget regarding a work or domestic project you face. An impulsive move will be required if you don't want to miss an opportunity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Size up your situation at home and reevaluate your relationships with the people you deal with daily. Discuss your plans and you'll find out quickly who wants to take part and who doesn't. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Change the way you do things. Updating your methods and your skills will help you stay ahead of any competition you meet along the way. A change in location will result in prospects that are more interesting. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't get angry; get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you make personal changes to your image or your surroundings. Compliments will follow and a romantic development will spark your interest. Don't be afraid to make the first move. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Plan your day carefully. Putting too much time and effort into a partnership that isn't built on equality should probably be reconsidered. An investment that ensures the use of your skills should be considered. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense and have common sense. You are intelligent and flexible.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4		2		7		
8	5		6				1	3
			7		1		5	
3								8
	2		5		8			
9	1				3		7	5
		2		9		3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	4	3	6	5	8	2	7
3	2	5	4	7	8	1	9	6
7	8	6	2	1	9	3	4	5
6	3	8	7	9	2	4	5	1
1	5	9	8	4	3	6	7	2
2	4	7	6	5	1	9	3	8
8	7	3	9	2	6	5	1	4
5	9	2	1	8	4	7	6	3
4	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES Solution: 9 letters

T	L	F	E	F	L	I	E	S	H	Y	C	C	A	A
T	E	A	I	A	M	A	R	I	N	E	O	A	T	D
H	A	M	N	S	G	T	U	R	T	L	E	N	L	M
T	F	I	P	A	H	L	T	P	O	L	W	R	A	M
G	H	L	R	E	P	I	A	R	O	O	O	T	N	U
N	O	Y	E	N	R	S	N	W	R	W	U	Y	T	S
E	P	H	D	L	E	A	I	G	A	R	E	E	I	S
R	P	T	A	I	L	S	T	D	E	V	S	R	C	A
T	E	L	T	B	C	E	T	U	A	S	E	P	O	G
S	R	U	O	E	I	A	H	I	R	D	A	S	A	R
E	S	D	R	E	N	T	R	S	N	E	L	L	S	A
A	S	A	S	T	A	D	A	Ⓔ	Ⓖ	Ⓖ	Ⓢ	C	T	S
S	T	H	U	L	E	R	G	T	T	R	E	T	A	W
O	N	N	L	E	C	A	G	E	S	T	I	N	L	I
N	A	G	F	S	O	H	E	A	D	J	A	W	S	M

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Adult, Ages, Algae, Anapsida, Ants, Atlantic, Beetles, Calm, Caretta, Coastal, Color, Eggs, Family, Feed, Fishing, Flies, Gender, Grown, Habitats, Hard, Head, Jaws, Leafhoppers, Marine, Mature, Nature, Nesting, Oceanic, Power, Predators, Prey, Salt, Sargassum, Seals, Season, Shell, Strength, Swim, Tails, Temperatures, Tuna, Turtle, Water, Waves, World, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Caquelon

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 is "Celebrities Vol. 3." To order, call toll-free, 1-800-642-5483. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles, including 8 20x20 puzzles.)

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Spurs blow late lead, beat Grizzlies 93-89 in OT

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—When Tony Parker started running low on masterful plays, Tim Duncan was there to take over and lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Parker had 15 points and a career playoff-high 18 assists, Duncan scored San Antonio's first six points of overtime and the Spurs bounced back after squandering a 13-point lead in the fourth quarter to beat the Memphis Grizzlies 93-89 on Tuesday night.

"I hate that we gave up that big of a lead in that situation," Duncan said. "But we were resilient enough to go to overtime and not let it affect us."

Duncan opened the extra period with a layup, and then made a tiebreaking putback on Parker's missed jumper. He then made a runner that bounced high of the back iron and rattled in for a 91-87 lead with 1:08 to play.

The Grizzlies had a chance to tie after Jerryd Bayless hit a jumper and Parker missed one of two free throws with 14.6 seconds left, but Bayless' 3-pointer from the left wing was off-target.

Memphis has fallen behind in all three playoff series so far, including rallying from an 0-2 deficit in the first round against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Game 3 is Saturday in Memphis.

"We're in the same boat we were when we left L.A. We're down 0-2. We've got to go home and take care of business at home," coach Lionel Hollins said. "It's not going to be easy, but that's where we are."

Bayless and Mike Conley each had 18 points to lead Memphis.

Duncan had 17 points and nine rebounds, missing most of the second half with foul trouble before coming up with the key baskets in overtime—even if it wasn't by design.

"It was just what was there more than anything," he said.

Memphis stormed back from a 13-point deficit with a 15-2 run over the final 8 minutes of regulation to tie it at 85 on Conley's runner in the lane with 18.2 seconds to play. The Grizzlies got the chance to pull even after Manu Ginobili was called for a flagrant foul for pulling down Tony Allen by his left arm on a fast-break layup try.

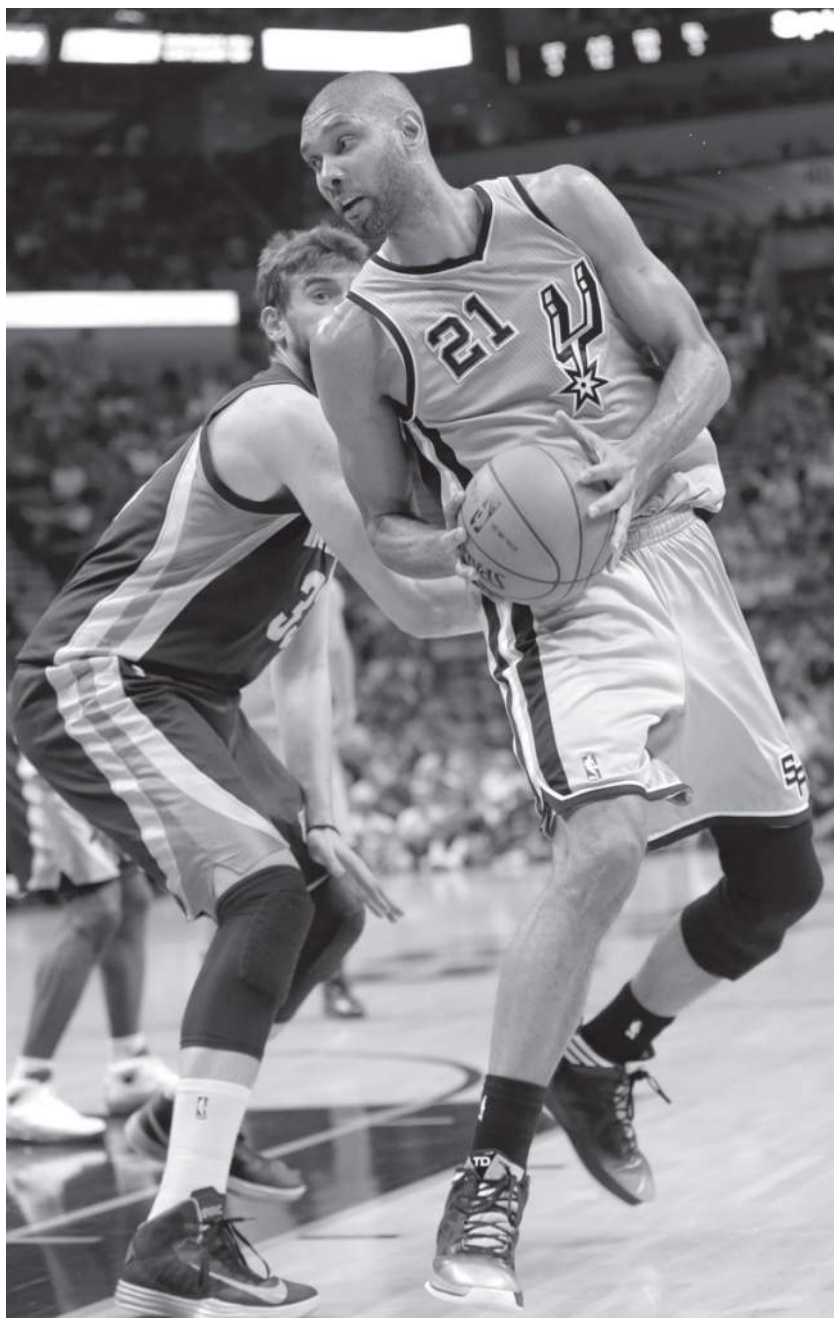
Allen hit both free throws and Memphis got possession, setting up Conley's tying basket at the end of a string of seven straight Grizzlies points.

But Memphis, which trailed by as much as 18 in the second half, could never pull ahead.

Up until the final stretch, Parker had been in control for 2 1/2 quarters.

Parker kept San Antonio humming along after Duncan went to the bench with four fouls, the last three picked up within a span of 30 seconds, early in the third quarter. Parker provided the assist on the Spurs' first seven baskets of the second half, and then scored the next two on mid-range jumpers before getting pulled for a rest with a 72-54 lead.

The Grizzlies mounted a 16-6 comeback while Parker was on the bench, getting as close as 78-70 after Zach Randolph scored inside following back-to-back Bayless jumpers.



AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) turns to the basket against Memphis Grizzlies' Marc Gasol during the first half in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Tuesday, May 21, 2013, in San Antonio.

Parker checked back in and soon had the lead growing again, ducking under Darrell Arthur to hit a floater and then knocking down a 3-pointer from the right wing to make it 83-70 with 8:14 to play. But then Parker finally went cold, missing five straight shots down the stretch as the Grizzlies rallied back.

He had 14 assists in the second and third quarters and went past his career-high for the regular season of 17 during overtime.

"He was unbelievable," Duncan said. "I know he's exhausted. We asked a lot of him. He was controlling the ball every time down the floor and he was making every right play there was.

"He was finding people, and people knocked down shots for him."

After Game 1, Memphis' guards outlined a game plan that involved picking up their defense earlier on Parker to keep him from getting into the lane and putting the Grizzlies into the scramble mode that allowed San Antonio to hit a franchise playoff record 14 3-pointers in the opener.

It wasn't until late that any of their plans started working.

"He's a Hall of Fame guard, people. He's been around, he's done great things in his career," Hollins said. "He just controlled the pace and got in the paint, found open guys. ... We battled him, though, and we wound up being in the game."

But then, Duncan—who missed a potential winning jumper from the left wing at the end of regulation—took over.

The Spurs put all five starters in double figures, getting 14 points from Tiago Splitter, 12 from Kawhi Leonard and 11 from Danny Green.

Randolph had 15 points and 18 rebounds after a two-point performance in Game 1, his lowest-scoring effort all season. Marc Gasol had 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Hollins talked before the game about wanting the Grizzlies—getting increased attention in their first Western Conference finals appearance—to avoid being like a boy in junior high school who suddenly decides he needs to change once he gets noticed by a pretty girl.

"We're who we are and we have to stay who we are, and we have to understand that no matter who's coming and talking to us, we have to be true to our identity," Hollins said, "and we can't go changing and shaving and taking a bath when we haven't taken one all along."

Memphis, with the league's best defense, looked like itself again early on while recovering from a 7-0 hole to turn it into a 15-13 slugfest after the first quarter. But after the Grizzlies went ahead for the first time, San Antonio surged back ahead with seven straight points. Just before halftime, the Spurs asserted control with a 13-0 run and went up 46-31 at the break.

Cavaliers win NBA *draft lottery again*

NEW YORK (AP)—What's not to like? Being in the lottery every year.

Nick Gilbert expects the Cleveland Cavaliers are through with it, and if so he sent them out a winner again.

The Cavaliers and their owner's son beat the odds for the second time in three years, winning the lottery Tuesday night to give them the No. 1 pick for the June 27 NBA draft.

Two years after charming viewers by responding to a question about being on stage by saying: "What's not to like?" the bowtie-wearing son of Dan Gilbert wore a stern look before this one. He said he expected he was done coming here and that he believed the Cavs would be in the playoffs next season.

Then they got a great jump on that goal, earning the first pick even though they had only the third-best odds to do so.

And 16-year-old Nick Gilbert delivered it, just as he did in 2011, when the Cavs used the pick to take eventual Rookie of the Year Kyrie Irving.

"Kyrie is a hell of a player ... but this also felt almost as good," Nick Gilbert said. "That was the first time. This is the second time, but man does it feel good to get the first pick this last time. Get that last player to give us a push."

The Orlando Magic fell back one spot to No. 2, while the Washington Wizards vaulted from the No. 8 spot to third.

Ten years after winning the lottery that landed them LeBron James, the Cavaliers picked up another opportunity to help speed up the rebuilding process since his departure to Miami in 2010.

James' exit shook a franchise that had become a perennial contender with the Ohio native, but the Cavs aren't thinking about that now.

"It's so long ago already. I knew it is only three years but in NBA years it's like dog years. It seems like it is 15 or 20 years," Dan Gilbert said. "We've been just so focused on building the team the last few years, I can't look back. There is nothing you can do. I am just happy about today."

The potential No. 1 pick this year, Kentucky freshman Nerlens Noel, is no James. But he could be a nice addition for the Cavs once he's recovered from a torn ACL—if they keep the pick. They also have Nos. 19, 31 and 33 for new coach Mike Brown, who they rehired after firing Byron Scott following a 24-58 season.

"We were hoping regardless of what pick we got that this would be our last lottery," Dan Gilbert said. "We thought originally after everything had to be reset that it would be a three-year process. You never know. It could be four. We thought three years, but having No. 1 and 19, we've got a pretty good chance of this being the last one for a while."

Dan Gilbert and the rest of the Cavs entourage—all wearing wine-colored bowties as well—celebrated their latest victory, which came with 15.6 percent odds after they finished with the NBA's third-worst record at 24-58.

When they won the lottery in 2011, the Cavs had the eighth best odds.

"For everyone in Cleveland who has supported us through these three years, I think this is for them," Dan Gilbert said. "Is that right, Nick?"

"It feels good," said Nick, who was born with Neurofibromatosis (NF), a nerve disorder that causes tumors to grow anywhere in the body at any time.

Not even having four-time winner Pat Williams on stage and 25 percent odds could get the No. 1 pick for the Magic. The team with the best odds hasn't won since 2004, when Orlando won for the third time with Williams representing them and drafted Dwight Howard. The franchise hadn't been back since 2006.

"We had such a nice run up here, over the years. Yeah, we came to win, so when they turned Cleveland over it was like "How did that happen? Absolutely! How did that happen?" Williams said.

"We had a better shot, a better percentage. ... I think the Lord was looking out for that little guy from Cleveland."

Even heading back to their Hornets name couldn't change the luck of the Bobcats, who were lottery losers for the second straight year. Hours after owner Michael Jordan announced they were planning to get back the original nickname of the Charlotte franchise, the Bobcats fell from No. 2 to the fourth spot.

Last year, Charlotte had the best odds of winning after the worst season in NBA history but fell back one spot to second.

The lottery sets the top three teams, and the remainder of the 14 teams finish in inverse order of their record.

Phoenix will pick fifth, followed by New Orleans, Sacramento, Detroit, Minnesota, Portland, Philadelphia, Oklahoma City, Dallas, and Utah.

The Thunder got the Raptors' pick as payment of a previous trade because it didn't move into the top three. Bryan Colangelo represented the team on stage on the day the Raptors announced he would stay on as team president but they would hire a general manager.

Guards Ben McLemore of Kansas and Trey Burke of Michigan, the college player of the year, and Georgetown forward Otto Porter Jr. are considered other top available players.

With uncertainty at the top, this is another year when the No. 1 pick could've been a high school player if eligible. Kansas-bound prep star Andrew Wiggins may have been the choice, but the age limit requiring players to be 19 years old and a year out of high school will remain unchanged at least until the players' association has a new executive director to replace the ousted Billy Hunter.

The union would like the limit to be lowered or scrapped entirely, while the NBA has expressed interest in raising it to 20. It's on a list of "B-list" items from the 2011 collective bargaining negotiations that the sides still plan to discuss.

Young and Howard lift Phillies over Marlins

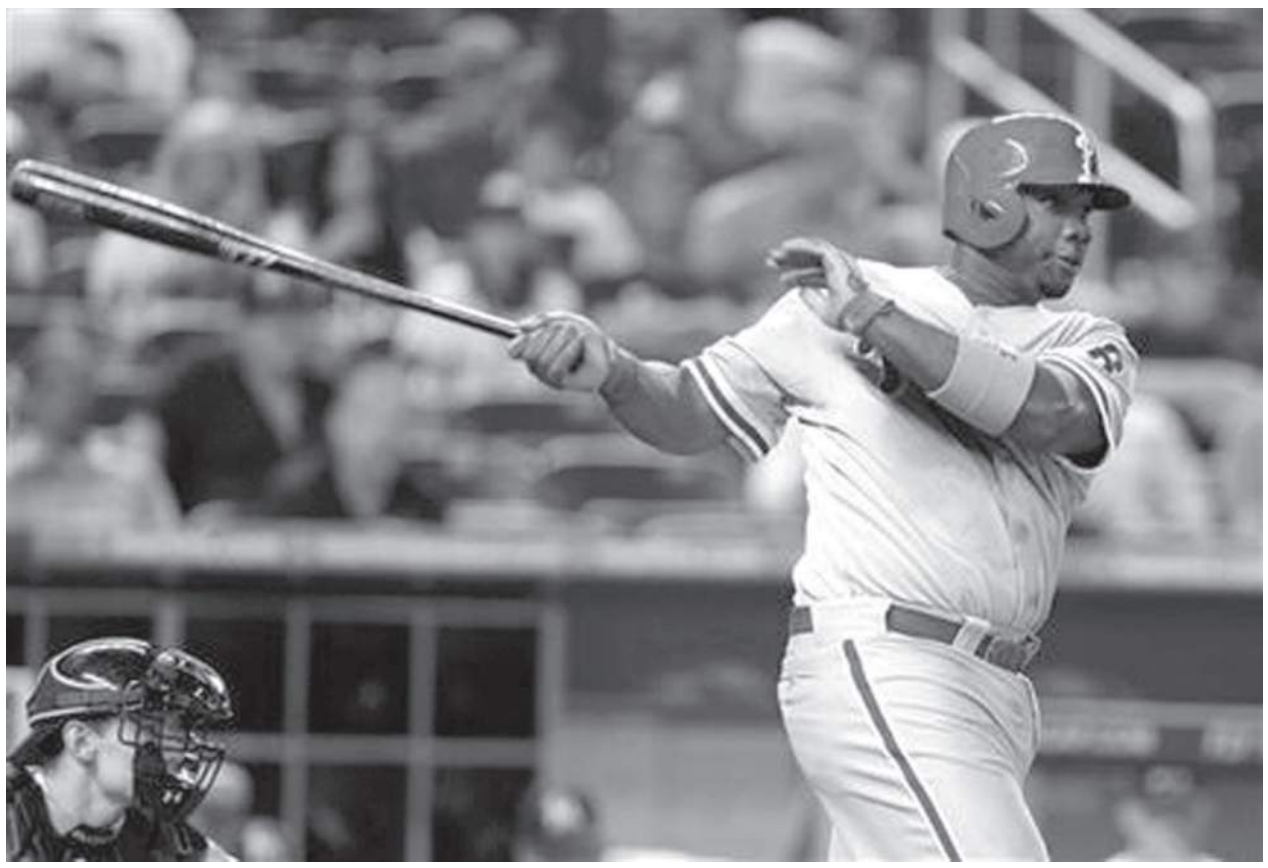
MIAMI (AP)— Delmon Young homered and Ryan Howard added three hits and three RBIs to help carry the Philadelphia Phillies to a 7-3 win over the Miami Marlins on Tuesday night.

Tyler Cloyd (1-0) allowed two runs and eight hits in seven innings after being recalled from Triple-A Lehigh Valley earlier in the day.

Miami's Jose Fernandez went five innings, allowing one run and five hits. He walked one and struck out two.

Philadelphia went ahead 2-1 in the sixth when Domonic Brown's ground out scored Howard from third. Howard led off with a single and took third on Young's double to deep center off Duane Below (0-1).

Howard's single with the bases loaded scored two runs and highlighted a four-run seventh that gave the Phillies a 6-1 lead. Howard returned to the lineup after missing two games with a sore left knee. He received a cortisone shot Sunday.



AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard hits a single in the sixth inning during a baseball game against the Miami Marlins in Miami, Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

Reds 4, Mets 0

In New York, Mike Leake pitched three-hit ball for seven sharp innings and Cincinnati took advantage of Mets third baseman David Wright's early error.

Devin Mesoraco homered as the Reds won for the ninth time in 11 games. They scored three times in the first inning after Wright let a bases-loaded, two-out grounder skip through his legs.

Leake (4-2) struck out four, walked two and became the latest pitcher to shut down the Mets at Citi Field. New York has lost 10 of 12 at home, rarely scoring many runs. Leake escaped his biggest jam by retiring slumping Ike Davis on a grounder with runners on second and third to end the fourth.

New York starter Jonathon Niese (3-5) wasn't charged with an earned run.

Pirates 5, Cubs 4

In Pittsburgh, Travis Snider hit a pinch-hit grand slam during a five-run sixth and Pittsburgh spoiled Matt Garza's strong return to the mound for the Cubs.

Garza allowed one hit over five shutout innings in his first outing in 10 months, but the Pirates pounced on a Chicago bullpen that is 10th in the National League in ERA by sending 11 men to the plate in the sixth.

Snider's first career home run with the bases loaded was the first Pirates pinch-hit grand slam in five years.

Garza had been sidelined since July 21 because of a stress reaction in his right elbow and, later, a strained upper back..

Wandy Rodriguez (5-2) allowed three runs on six hits over six innings for the Pirates, who have won nine of 11. The Cubs scored once in the ninth, but Jason Grilli got Anthony Rizzo to strike out swinging with two on to end the game and earn his major league-leading 18th save.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 2

In Milwaukee, Carlos Gomez hit a go-ahead two-run double, Jonathan Lucroy had three hits and an RBI and five Milwaukee relievers combined for five scoreless innings to beat Los Angeles.

Mike Fiers (1-2), Michael Gonzalez, John Axford, Brandon Kintzler and Jim Henderson pitched Milwaukee to only its fourth victory in its last 19 games by allowing a total of just four singles. Henderson threw the ninth for his ninth save, striking out pinch-hitter Scott Van Slyke with runners on first and second.

Zach Greinke (2-1), making his second start since returning from a broken left collarbone, gave up nine hits and five earned runs in four-plus innings against his former team en route to his first careere loss at Miller Park. The right-hander, traded by the Brewers to the Los Angeles Angels last July 27, had won his first 15 decisions in Milwaukee.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

In Denver, Wilin Rosario drove in Carlos Gonzalez with a one-out single in the 10th inning to lift Colorado after squandering a late four-run lead.

Gonzalez hit a double and reliever Matt Reynolds (0-2) intentionally walked Troy Tulowitzki to get to Rosario, who came through with a liner to right on the first pitch.

Rosario lifted his hands in the air after touching first base and was soon mobbed by teammates.

Tulowitzki hit a solo homer and had a double to raise his average to .406 at Coors Field this season.

The Rockies brought closer Rafael Betancourt to start the 10th, but he was in some discomfort after throwing a second straight pitch into the dirt. After a few warm-up tosses, Betancourt left with a tight groin and Wilton Lopez was brought in.

Lopez (1-1) threw a perfect inning to earn the win.

Cardinals 10, Padres 2

In San Diego, Daniel Descalso hit his first career grand slam and had a career-high five RBIs, and Adam Wainwright won for the first time at Petco Park as the Cardinals beat the Padres.

Descalso lined a 1-2 pitch from Anthony Bass into the Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 Deck in right-center with one out in the eighth, his second homer of the season. Jon Jay was intentionally walked ahead of him.

Wainwright (6-3) held San Diego to one run and four hits in 7 1-3 innings, struck out six and walked one.

The 6-foot-7 right-hander had been 0-2 with a 2.57 ERA in his previous three appearances at the spacious downtown ballpark, including two starts.

San Diego's Edinson Volquez (3-5) allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings, struck out five and walked one. He allowed four runs on six hits in the fifth.

Giants 4, Nationals 2

In San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the 10th inning after Gregor Blanco's tying triple in the ninth, and the Giants rallied past the Nationals.

Sandoval flipped his bat and shifted into a slow trot as soon as he sent the ball off Yunesky Maya (0-1) over the right-center field wall for his eighth homer this season.

Blanco had three hits, including his RBI triple off closer Rafael Soriano with two outs in the ninth. The Giants' comeback upstaged a superb outing by Stephen Strasburg, who outdueled Matt Cain in seven innings in a matchup of NL aces.

Jeremy Affelft (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Orioles 3, Yankees 2, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Nate McLouth homered leading off the bottom of the 10th inning, Chris Dickerson hit a pair of solo shots and the Baltimore Orioles beat the New York Yankees 3-2 Tuesday night to snap a six-game losing streak.

McLouth hit a 1-1 pitch from Vidal Nuno (1-1) into the bleachers in right-center to give the Orioles their first win since May 12.

Jim Johnson (2-4), who blew three save opportunities during the six-game skid, got three straight outs in the 10th. His performance capped an exceptional effort by Orioles pitchers, who retired 21 of the last 22 New York batters.

Angels 12, Mariners 0

In Anaheim, Calif., Mike Trout hit for the cycle and drove in five runs, Josh Hamilton celebrated his 32nd birthday with a homer and a triple, and Howie Kendrick also went deep in the Angels' rout of the Mariners.

Trout, last season's AL rookie of the year and MVP runner-up, became the sixth player in Angels history to complete the cycle and the first to do it since Chone Figgins on Sept. 16, 2006, at Texas.

Jerome Williams (3-1) scattered six hits over eight innings, struck out six and walked two while helping send the Mariners to their season-high fifth straight loss.

Athletics 1, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas, rookie right-hander Dan Straily pitched seven scoreless innings and Yoenis Cespedes homered as the Athletics won their fifth straight game, beating the Rangers and Yu Darvish.

Straily (2-2) gave up only two singles while facing 22 batters, just one over the minimum for his seven innings. He struck out five.

Even with consecutive wins to start the three-game series, Oakland still trails the Rangers by 4 1/2 games in the AL West.

Darvish (7-2) had won all five of his previous starts this season when pitching after a Texas loss.

Tigers 5, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer and Max Scherzer retired 22 straight batters after the first inning, helping Detroit stop Cleveland's five-game winning streak.

Cabrera's laser shot in the sixth inning off Corey Kluber (3-3) helped the Tigers win for just the second time in six games. The defending AL champions also moved within 1 1/2 games of the first-place Indians, who have won 18 of 23 since April 28.

Scherzer (6-0) gave up two singles and a run in the first before shutting down baseball's hottest team for eight innings. The right-hander walked just one and struck out seven, including the final four he faced. Scherzer's 118th and last pitch was his fastest—a 98 mph heater to fan Drew Stubbs.

Andy Dirks hit a solo homer in the sixth and had two RBIs as Detroit won the first game of the short, showdown series.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Kelly Johnson and Desmond Jennings homered, Alex Cobb won for the first time in three starts to lead Tampa Bay past Toronto.

Cobb (5-2) allowed one run and three hits in 6 1-3 innings for his first victory since winning at Colorado on May 5. The right-hander walked two and struck out two. Thirteen of his 19 outs came on groundballs.

Jake McGee got two outs in the seventh before the Blue Jays rallied against Joel Peralta in the eighth. Munenori Kawasaki singled, Melky Cabrera walked and Jose Bautista hit an RBI single. Edwin Encarnacion struck out before Adam Lind reach on a fielding error by second baseman Ryan Roberts.

Royals 7, Astros 3

In Houston, Mike Moustakas tied it with an RBI single before George Kottaras scored the go-ahead run on a bases-loaded walk in a four-run eighth inning, helping Kansas City end a four-game skid.

The Royals trailed 3-0 and couldn't get much going offensively until the seventh when they cut the lead to one on RBI singles by Alcides Escobar and David Lough.

Eric Hosmer chased Wesley Wright in the eighth when he singled to load the bases. He was replaced by Jose Cisnero, who gave up the one-out RBI single by Moustakas, which snapped a 0-for-18 slump. Cisnero then walked Kottaras on four pitches to put the Royals on top.

They added two more runs when Escobar grounded into a force out to score Hosmer before an error by Marwin Gonzalez allowed Moustakas to go home.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 1

In Chicago, Jose Quintana took a no-hitter into the seventh before David Ortiz broke it up with a one-out broken-bat single, and the White Sox beat Boston.

Jeff Keppinger hit a two-run homer off Felix Doubront (3-2) in the fifth. Alex Rios extended his career-high hitting streak to 16 with a single and RBI double, and the White Sox won for the sixth time in eight games. They'll try to complete the sweep against Clay Buchholz on Wednesday.

Quintana (3-1) was simply terrific.

The left-hander struck out five and walked two.

Braves 5, Twins 4, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Evan Gattis hit a two-out, pinch-hit homer in the ninth to send the game to extra innings and Freddie Freeman won it in the 10th, sending Atlanta to its fifth straight win.

Freeman blooped a two-out single off Brian Duensing (0-1) to bring home Jason Heyward, handing the Twins their seventh straight loss.

Trevor Plouffe and Ryan Doumit had RBI singles in the eighth against the depleted Atlanta bullpen, giving the Twins a 4-3 lead. They were one out away from snapping their slide when Gattis lined an 0-1 pitch from Glen Perkins deep into the left-field seats for his ninth homer of the season.

Craig Kimbrel (1-1) worked a scoreless 10th for the win.

Tammy shatters 17-year swim record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy, seen here competing in the 100m butterfly event in a tournament last month, broke the 100m butterfly record in the girls 11 to 12 age group during the 2012-2013 NMISF Championship Meet held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Miku Tammy moved up to a new division and got her first age group record during the 2012-2013 NMISF Championship Meet held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tammy timed in at 1:16.27 in the 100m butterfly, breaking the 1:18.17 Xenavee Pangelinan, of the Saipan Swim Club, registered on Jan. 27, 1996. Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh confirmed Tammy's record-breaking time.

The Tsunami bet, who just turned 11 last month, now joins SSC's Myana Welch and Grace Kimball and Tsunami Saipan teammate Angel Marie Tan in the elite group of swimmers that hold records in the girls 11 to 12 age group. Notably, Tammy shattered the longest-standing mark in the division, leaving Welch's 800m freestyle mark (10:51.15/Nov. 10, 2001) now as the oldest record in the group.

Before moving to the higher age group, Tammy dominated the 9 to 10 division record list, claiming 12 of the 15 marks in the field. She owns all the freestyle marks 50m (31.28 seconds), 100m (1:08.14), 200m, (2:24.96), 400m (5:13.53), and 800m (10:41.53); the 50m backstroke (36.90 seconds), 100m backstroke (1:19.10), and 200m backstroke (2:49.27); the 50m butterfly (33.04 seconds), 100m butterfly (1:16.77), and 200m butterfly (2:53.64); and the 200m IM (2:46.38). Tan has the three other records in the 9 to 10 age group, namely the 50m breaststroke (41.86 seconds), 100m breaststroke (1:31.27), and the 200m breaststroke (3:16.71).

Besides the 100m butterfly race, Tammy also competed in one more event in the final local tournament NMISF hosted for the 2012-2013 season. She clocked in at 36.11 seconds in the 50m backstroke for a new personal best time, eclipsing her 36.90 seconds.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan and SSC swimmers are heading to Guam this weekend to participate in the Guam Swimming Championships and the Coco's Island Ocean Swim.

Yuichiro Printing stuns Sexy Boys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yuichiro's Jomer Enriquez, center, pulls up for a floater, against the Sexy Boys' Chris Esteves during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Yuichiro Printing ended its three-game skid after pulling off an upset over the second running Sexy Boys, 93-68, in the Bracket B match in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Yuichiro got off to a strong start en route to a 25-point win, only its second in six games. The Sexy Boys absorbed its second loss in five matches to remain in second place.

A 24-11 scoring run in the first quarter gave Yuichiro momentum and it continued to pull away in the last three periods to return to winning form. Sheen Metran, Arthur Montes, and Nolan Cultura scored 6 points apiece to give Yuichiro the early double-digit advantage, while the Sexy Boys clearly missed key players Herbert Maranan and Ralph Francisco, as it connected on only five fields goals in the first 10 minutes of play.

Yuichiro moved further away in the second quarter, increasing the lead to 20, 46-26, as Arthur Montes added 5 more markers and his three other teammates made at least two baskets each. The Sexy Boys continued to play a so-so offense, as no one was willing to step in and spark a rally.

It was the same story in the second half, as Yuichiro managed to get points from every player it fielded in the game, while the Sexy Boys ran out of options.

Rodney Sacramento paced four Yuichiro players in double figures with his 13 points, while Arthur Montes contributed 12, the same markers they got from his son, Angelo. Metran also nailed 12 markers, while Cultura, Jomer Enriquez, and Erwin Gomez chipped in 8 each.

Meanwhile, Adobo won via forfeiture against Flip Top, which had only four players available at the start of the match, to sweep (6-0) the Bracket A games.

Yuchiro 93 – Sacramento 13, Metran 12, An. Montes 12, Ar. Montes 12, Cultura 8, Gomez 8, Enriquez 8, Santos 6, Babauta 5, Sanciangco 1.

Sexy Boys 68 – Caro 19, Wood 13, Tangcoy 10, Esteves 8, Sablan 6, Rosario 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-11, 46-26, 71-36, 93-68.

FIELDERS

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The title game started at 5pm and finally resumed around 8:40pm with the Braves' Angel Palacios batting and Fielders on top, 5-4, after getting two runs at the bottom of the fifth, courtesy of Ian Rogolifoi's RBI single and Kobbie Kaipat's sacrifice fly. Palacios singled, but was later beaten to second for the second out. Barry Sunumai was caught stealing home by catcher Kyle Hocog for the first out. The Fielders then ended the top of the sixth with shortstop Devin Ada catching a fly ball from A.J. Evagelista.

Now on offense, the Fielders had Justin Youm as the leadoff runner. He was then hit by a pitch by Frankie Lieto, who came in for starter A.J. Evangelista just in the fifth inning, but showed early signs of fatigue, as he threw wild pitch one after another. Lieto's wayward throws allowed the Fielders to move to bases and eventually scored two runs off a sacrifice fly and a bunt and one off a wild pitch at the bottom of the sixth inning. Finally, Braves officials had had enough and recalled Evangelista, who got a strike for the third out.

Down by four, 8-4, the Braves needed every hit they could get at the top of the last inning, but their chances dimmed when the Fielders' Cody Kaipat caught a fly ball from leadoff batter K.J. Kalen over the head of their second baseman. Cody Kaipat got another one this time running after the fly ball past center field toward his left. Then back-to-back base hits from Ray Saralu and Lieto momentarily kept the Braves in the game, as the former went on to advance to second with J.J. Lifoifoi getting ready at bat. Lifoifoi hit a grounder toward third baseman Wanket, who then threw to Ian Rogolofoi, as he saw Lieto leaving first base. Rogolifoi then threw the ball to second baseman Jerry Kintol, who tagged out Lieto to end the match and start the Fielders' championship celebration.

UPSET

From Page 28

sets at the Kanoa Resort court. The Korean dropped the opening set, 2-6, but stole the victory from his favored foe after sweeping the last two, 6-2, 6-4. Next up for Chung is fellow qualifier and Thailand's Leo Vithoontien, who ousted the CNMI's very own Rafael Jones over at the Pacific Islands Club court, 6-3, 6-0.

Joining the Vithoontien and Chung in the Round of 16 were the CNMI's Amami Sakano and Chris Cajigan, Hong Kong's Chak Yin Chan, Australia's Stefan Vujic and Jesse Delaney, wild card and Spain's Francisco Adolfo Blanco Paris, Korea's Yong Seak Jang, Seng Hui Lee, Jae Hee Cho, and Sangcheol Oh, Japan's Sohta Namise and Kota Kuramoto China's Yu Hao Lu, and Malaysia's Anthony Jackie Tang.

Oh won over Singapore's Seth En Teoh, 6-1, 6-1, to arrange a second match versus Delaney, who also won via sweep against the CNMI's Dylan Ackermen. In the other second round pairing at the top half of the draw, it will be Japan versus Korea after the fourth-seeded Cho and Kuramoto prevailed over the Philippines' Jerome Romualdez, 6-1, 6-0, and the CNMI's Moris Villanueva, 6-3,6-1, respectively.

Completing the Round of 16 pairing of the upper half of the draw were Tang and Lu. Tang advanced after eliminating Malaysia's Zu Zinyang Tan, 6-4, 7-5, while Ly coasted to a 6-2, 6-0 victory over the CNMI's Jake Lee.

In the lower half of the draw, Cajigan and Sakano notched Round of 16 slots after beating fellow CNMI players Cajigan was paired with Seiya Eda and won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-2, to set up a second round duel against the fifth-ranked Seng Hui Lee. Lee cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 victory versus Singapore's Joshua Kai Le Tan to march into the next round.

Sakano also took only two sets to barge into the second round, winning over Daniel Park, 7-6, 6-4. Sakano next faces Blanco Paris, who eked out a 6-7 (3), 6-1, 6-3 triumph over fellow wild card entry Philip Westwood of Thailand.

Other second round pairings are Vujic versus Chan and Namise against Jang. Vujic gained a Round of 16 entry after downing the CNMI's Tommy Choi, 6-0, 6-1, while Chan won his first round match against Korean qualifier Hongjun Lee, 6-2, 6-0. Namise won love-set in his first match, shutting out the CNMI's Colin Ramsey, while Jang thwarted American Elliot Thorton, 6-1, 6-0.

Meanwhile, in the girls U18 singles, five have clinched Round of 16 berths at press time, including the CNMI's Alina Ishikawa, who edged fellow Commonwealth bet Liza Atalig in the lower half of the draw, 6-1, 6-3.

Joining her to the next round are South Africa's Warona MdLulwa, Thailand's Gorbua Srisirisupayok, the USA's Sachi Belwal, and Japan's Miyu Hashimoto, who survived their first round match, and seeded players Katriana and Isabella Orteza of the Philippines, Singapore's Angela Lim, Japan's Mei Otsuka and Yuri Katano, Germany's Vivien Klein, and Thailand's Emiri Vithoontien, who drew byes in the opening round.

MdLulwa outclassed the CNMI's Negahr Rastguiy in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 to set up a second round match over Srisirisupayok, who ousted the Philippines' Maria Dominique Ong, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Emily Jones was the third CNMI bet in the girls division to lose, bowing to Belwal, who cruised to a 6-0, 6-2, to arrange a Round of 16 duel with Hashimoto. The Japanse also nailed a straight sets win over CNMI No. 1 U18 player Thea Minor, 6-4, 6-4.

Two other CNMI U18 female players were scheduled to play in the opening round yesterday, but results of Tammy Ackerman and Mikayla Lopez's debuts in the Northern Marianas Open were unavailable at press time. Ackerman was set to faced Japan's Izumi Asano, while Lopez was paired against Hong Kong's Wai Lam Ip.

LEINA

From Page 28

girls but it was still fun and I'm still blessed to have made it to regionals," she said.

For now, Kim said her lousy final round in the regionals should serve as a lesson for future competitions.

"If I had kept my putting game on point I'm sure I would've done way better. I learned to wait before putting while it hails. I also learned to never lose focus and to leave everything else behind and to always think about the next shot."

Kim has definitely made a splash for the Thunderwolves. The 20-year-old sophomore last month was named Golfer of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

This is on top of earning the nod for Freshman of the Year of the same conference. She won both accolades after landing in the Top 5 of the last four competitions in the RMAC.

Kim finished high school at the Marianas Baptist Academy and is the daughter of Kwang Young Kim and Shirley Kim of Sun Palace Hotel fame. His older brother, Michael, was a former CNMI junior player. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	28	17	.622	_
Boston	27	19	.587	1 1/2
Baltimore	24	21	.533	4
Tampa Bay	24	21	.533	4
Toronto	18	27	.400	10

Central Division

Cleveland	26	18	.591	_
Detroit	24	19	.558	1 1/2
Kansas City	21	21	.500	4
Chicago	21	23	.477	5
Minnesota	18	24	.429	7

West Division

Texas	29	17	.630	_
Oakland	25	22	.532	4 1/2
Seattle	20	26	.435	9
Los Angeles	18	27	.400	10 1/2
Houston	13	33	.283	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	27	18	.600	_
Washington	23	23	.500	4 1/2
Philadelphia	22	24	.478	5 1/2
New York	17	26	.395	9
Miami	13	33	.283	14 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	29	16	.644	_
Cincinnati	28	18	.609	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	27	18	.600	2
Chicago	18	26	.409	10 1/2
Milwaukee	18	26	.409	10 1/2

West Division

Arizona	26	20	.565	_
San Francisco	26	20	.565	_
Colorado	25	21	.543	1
San Diego	21	24	.467	4 1/2
Los Angeles	18	26	.409	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Saipan Community School student competes in the high jump event in the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships held this month at the Olea Sports Complex.

A Saipan International School student clears the bar during the high jump event.

Runners get the baton from their respective teammates for the final lap of the 4x400m relay race.

Students wait for their turn at the vortex throw event.

Students line up at the starting line for the 4x100m relay.

Students watch a Koblerville Elementary School bet does the vortex throw.

A Saipan International School student gives all her force during the vortex throw.

Saipan International School's Catherine Atalig runs the second lap of the 4x400m relay race.

A Saipan Community School runner hands the baton to his teammate.

A U10 runner sprints his leg in the 4x400m relay.

Saipan Tribune Sports

Fielders clinch Senior League title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tan Holdings Fielders players and their coach and manager flash the No. 1 sign after beating the NSA Braves, 8-4, in the finals of the Senior League division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Fielders bagged the championship in the Senior League division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after outclassing the NSA Braves, 8-4, in an intensely contested and delayed finale last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Fielders scored three runs in the pivotal and agonizing sixth inning to break the Braves' back and win the nearly five-hour match prolonged by repeated clarifications on technical rules.

About 20 minutes of the finale was spent alone at the top of the sixth inning when Fielders officials questioned the Braves' failure to follow the mandatory play rule. While officials from both teams and the umpires had time-consuming discussions in front of the press box, the Braves players chanted "let's play ball" from their dugout and soon the weary fans, too clamored for the resumption of the match.

See FIELDERS on Page 26

Upset marks opener of Northern Marianas Open

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Tammy Ackerman stretches for a return from the baseline during her first round match against Japan's Izumi Asano in the girls U18 singles of the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club court

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships began yesterday with the unseeded Hyun Chung of Korea earning the most impressive win in the opening round of the boys U18 singles.

Chung, who had to go to the qualifying draw to make it to yesterday's first round, stunned top-seeded Kennosuke Nouchi of Japan in three

See UPSET on Page 26

Leina settles for second in Division II regionals

CNMI golfer Leina Kim finished tied for second in the NCAA Division 2 Women's Super 4 tournament held earlier this month at the Tiara Rado Golf Course in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Colorado State University-Pueblo sophomore finished the three-round tourney, dubbed the regionals, with a 15-over 231 to finish tied with St. Edward's University's Haley Haught.

Sonoma State University's Spencer Heller and Grand Canyon University's Charlotte Jaengkit topped the competition with their four-over 230.

Kim actually led the first two rounds of the tournament, firing identical 74s in the first two days before the weather got the better of her in the third day.

She limped back to the clubhouse with an 11-over 83 in the final round.

"I felt great, although I was in the lead the first two days, dropping to third isn't bad at all. We had a two-hour lightning delay and we also had hail. Sadly that got to me and a lot of the other

See LEINA on Page 26